ONI-NAGI
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AKIRA ISHIDA

ONINAGI 3
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AKIRA ISHIDA

ONINAGI

Typical high school girl Nanami Kushimiya finds herself under suspicion of being a "demon." Those who have witnessed Nanami's hidden power are two Divine Enforcers—Tomotaka Onigoroshi and Kazuto Sanjouin—and one of her demonic familiars, Tsurugi. Each has their own ideas about what they have seen, and all three stay close to Nanami. Suddenly, as Tsurugi sustains an attack by a fellow demonic familiar, Mori, who reveals his deep hatred of Tsurugi's disciplined ways, a new enemy rears its head—a group of super-powered demons! Their target: Nanami's "power"!

Nanami Kushimiya

A girl with demon blood in her veins. She's usually your typical high school girl, but when her hidden inner powers appear, so does a completely different personality with demonic abilities.

Tomotaka Onigoroshi

Slayer first class of the Divine Enforcers. As the legitimate heir to the Onigoroshi House, she has made the hunting of demons her life's work. She masterfully wields the sword, "Oninagi."

Kazuto Sanjouin

Slayer second class of the Divine Enforcers. Uses animated needles created by weaving collected "taint" into needle form as weapons. Part of a Sanjouin branch family, he has complicated feelings toward the head house.

Tsurugi

A demonic puppet created for use in battle approximately four hundred years ago by Nanami's ancestor, "Princess Kinkan." Swears allegiance to the princess's descendant, Nanami.

Demons

Those who harbor the "taint" within their bodies. Once, they coexisted with humans, but now are hunted targets. They are able to morph into vicious forms and attack humans.

Divine Enforcers

An organization that exists to hunt demons. Tomotaka and Kazuto are members. They believe that actively antagonistic demons will lead to disaster.

Divine Article File No.000
DIVINE ARTICLE
ONINAGI
Ritual and battle articles that past spirit wielders infused with their own souls. These articles have spiritual powers on their own, but most need the handler's own spirit energy to function. Thus, their handlers are limited to spirit wielders only. Although the article's powers manifest by "boosting" the wielder's spirit energy, the divine article's "rank" (According to the Ministry, ranks are designated as S, A, B, C, D, and E) changes the level of power amplification. Articles of high rank possess great power, but if the wielder's spirit energy is weak, the article's power will not be able to manifest at all. Conversely, if a wielder of great power uses an article of low rank, the article will not be able to fully make use of the wielder's powers and — in the worst case scenario — may self-destruct, being overwhelmed by the level of power from the wielder.
There are instances of personalities inhabiting Divine Articles.
With certain exceptions, most are used to battle "Ioini" and to defeat demons.

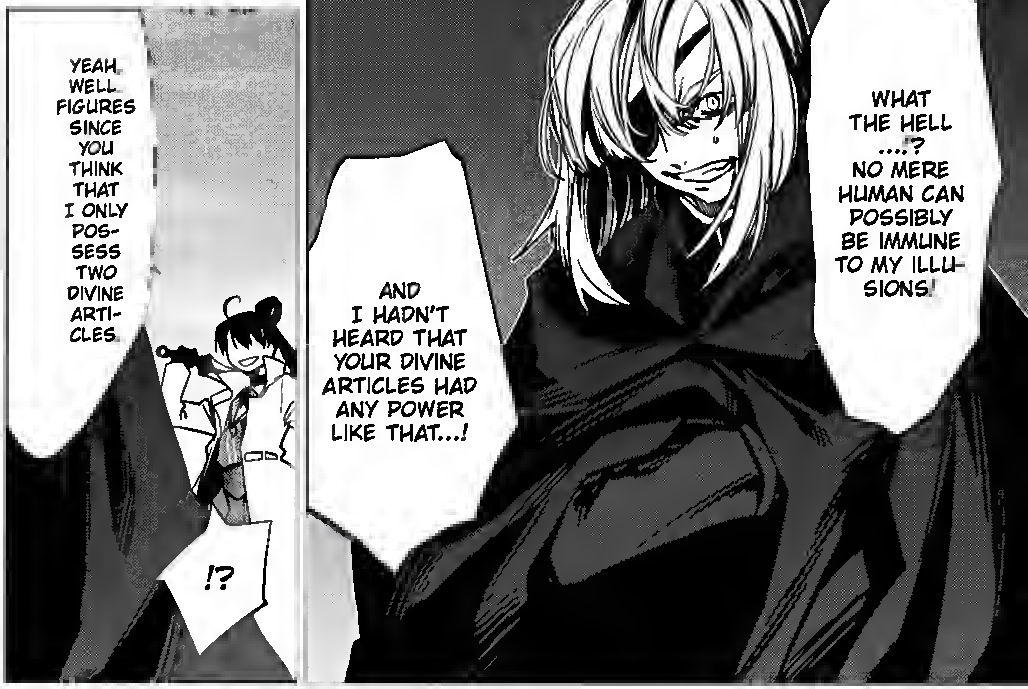
THE SKILLED DIVINE ENFORCER WHO WIELDS TWO DIVINE ARTICLES ...
I HAVE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT YOU.
AND TRUE. THOSE DIVINE ARTICLES POSE A GREAT THREAT ...
HOW-EVER...

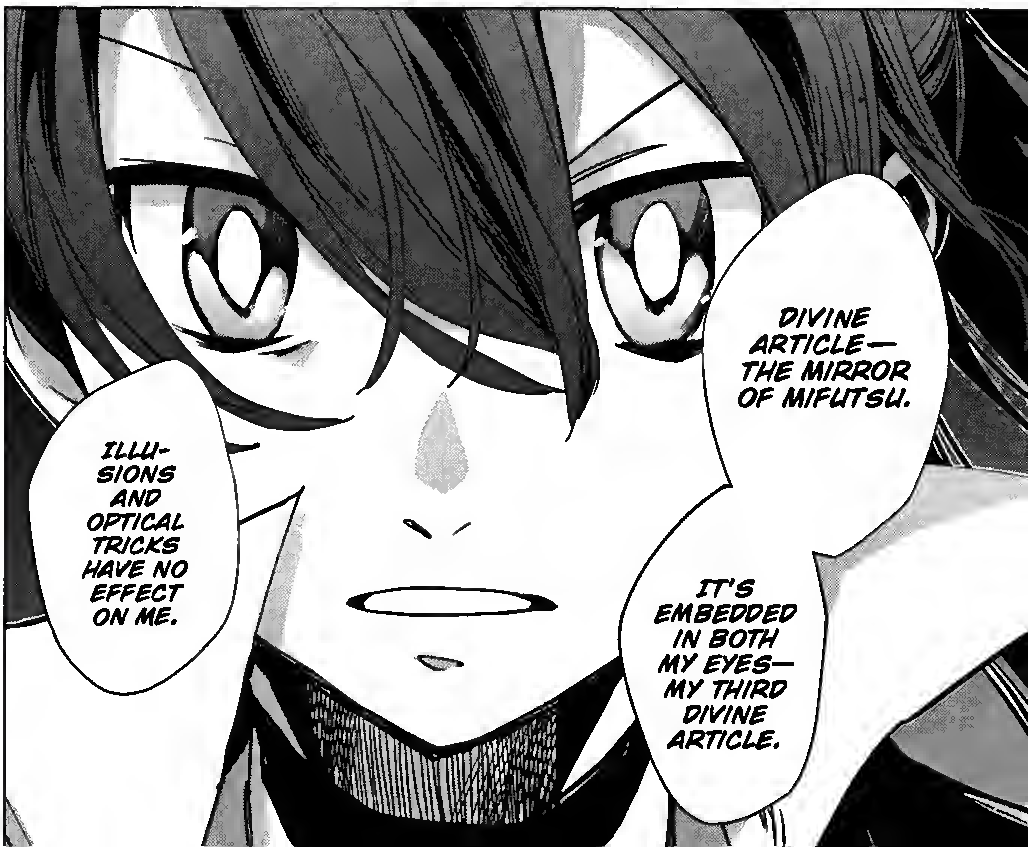
...THEY ARE POWERLESS AGAINST MY MAGIC.
ACT FIFTEEN.

DOSA.. (THUD...)
GURA.. (TOPPLE..)
SU.. (SLIDE..)
...NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THE WEAPON, AS LONG AS THE ONE WIELDING IT IS A HUMAN...
...IT IS USELESS AGAINST ME.

.....
... DAMN.
THAT TEMPERANCE...HE PULLED A FAST ONE ON US.
WE CAN GET IN EASY, BUT WE CAN'T GET OUT.
(STAB)
TCH!
SO WE CAN'T LEAVE HERE WITHOUT HIM OPENING AN EXIT FOR US?
...!?

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW THE WAY OUT, BUT...
...GUESS I WAS WRONG.
I'LL FIND MY OWN EXIT.
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU'RE...
BA (FWOOSH)
...DUST!!
VUN (VWOM)
LOOKS LIKE CREATING ILLUSIONS ISN'T YOUR ONLY TRICK, HM?


YEAH, WELL FIGURES SINCE YOU THINK THAT I ONLY POS-SESS TWO DIVINE ARTI-CLES.
!?
AND I HADN'T HEARD THAT YOUR DIVINE ARTICLES HAD ANY POWER LIKE THAT...!
WHAT THE HELL ....!? NO MERE HUMAN CAN POSSIBLY BE IMMUNE TO MY ILLU-SIONS!

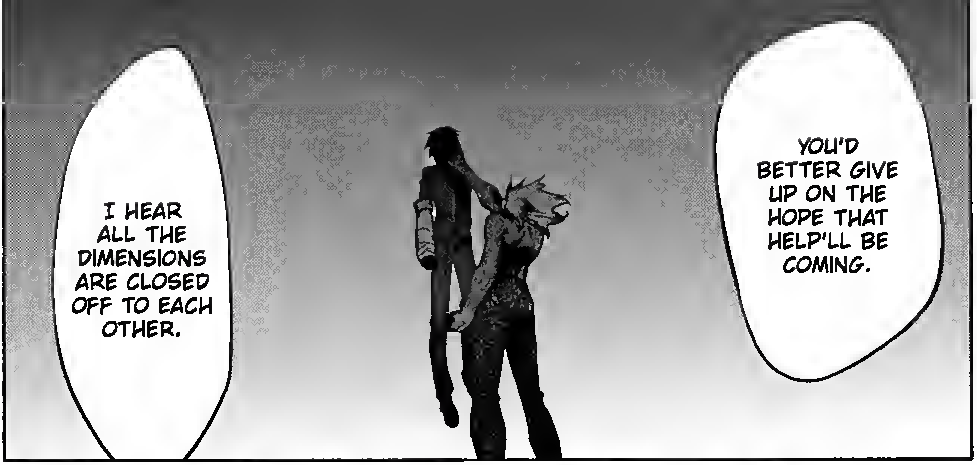

ILLU-SIONS AND OPTICAL TRICKS HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME.
IT'S EMBEDDED IN BOTH MY EYES— MY THIRD DIVINE ARTICLE.
DIVINE ARTICLE— THE MIRROR OF MIFUTSU.

NOW... TIME FOR THE FINAL BLOW?
THAT LAST STRIKE HIT THE MARK SO YOU PROBABLY WON'T LAST LONG.
.....
...KUH KUH!
DON'T YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, LITTLE GIRL.
GO
GO
GO (GRRROAR)
GO
GO
IT HAS BEEN FIFTY YEARS SINCE I ACQUIRED THE DEMONIC POWER THAT THE HUMANS OF THIS COUNTRY CALL TAINT...
...AND I'VE EXPERIMENTED FAR AND WIDE TO MAKE THAT POWER WHOLLY MINE...
ZU (ZWOOH)
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU THE RESULTS.
BY USING MY HU-MAN DEATH AS THE KEY...
DOKUN (BADUMP)
...I SHALL COMPLETELY BECOME ONE WITH THIS TAINT, THIS POWER...
BA (VWAH)

RAN
SLASH
...YOU'RE NOT TOO BRIGHT, ARE YOU?
THE DIVINE ENFORCERS EXIST TO EXTERMINATE THAT VERY TAINT!

...YOU'RE NOT TOO BRIGHT, ARE YOU?
THE DIVINE ENFORCERS EXIST TO EXTERMINATE THAT VERY TAINT!

ZAN
GLASH


I HEAR ALL THE DIMENSIONS ARE CLOSED OFF TO EACH OTHER.
YOU'D BETTER GIVE UP ON THE HOPE THAT HELP'LL BE COMING.

I... SEE ...
GIRI (SQUEEZE)
IS THAT SO...? THIS DIMENSION IS SEALED...

SO DIE, REGRETTING YOUR OWN LACK OF POWER.

BAKIN (CRACK)

THAT IS..... CONVE-NIENT.

...
IM-
POS-
SIBLE
...
BA
(RRIP)
.....
SHUUUUU
(WOOSHH)

TRANS-FORMING BY TAKING THE TAINT INTO YOUR BODY...
YOU... DO YOU GET WHAT THIS MEANS? YOU'RE —!
SURE I UNDER-STAND.
JUST AS WITH *YOU*... THIS IS *THE POWER OF DEMONS*, PROHI-BITED BY THE DIVINE ENFOR-CERS.
BUT IF THIS DIMENSION IS SEALED OFF...THOSE OUTSIDE WILL NEVER KNOW.
GISHI... (STRAIN...)
MY SPIRIT NEEDLES CAN HEAL SHORT-TERM CONTAMI-NATION...
ALL THAT REMAINS... IS TO SILENCE THOSE PRESENT *HERE*...
AND ONCE THAT IS DONE, NO ONE WILL DISCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS SECRET.

ZUAGO
(WHOOSH)

CONSIDERING YOU MANAGED TO SCRATCH ME...
THAT'S NO ORDINARY ATTACK, HUH?
ACTU-ALLY ...
ZUZU... (SLITHER...)
...MY ATTACK IS THE SAME NEEDLE-BASED ONE AS BEFORE...
THAT IS ALL.
I ONLY INCREASED THEIR NUMBERS ...
...TO TENS OF THOUSANDS. MILLIONS, EVEN.

SO DIE, REGRETTING YOUR OWN LACK OF POWER.
NO MATTER HOW TOUGH YOUR BODY MAY BE...IT IS POWERLESS IN THE FACE OF MY NEEDLES.
WHEN AN UNENDING STREAM OF NEEDLES STRIKES AT HIGH VELOCITY...
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS?
DAKI (CRUSH)
EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH IS SHREDDED TO MINCEMEAT.
...I LIKE YOUR STYLE...
...KAZUTO SANJOUIN!!

ビュオオ
BYUOOO
(WHOOSH)

KUH!
.....

WHOOOA!!
(BA (YAH)
DON'T YOU GET IT?
(HYU (WHOOSH...?
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU DO THAT.
OOOOO (ROOAR)
BYUO (VWOOW)

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T GET IT.
I CONTROL THIS DIMENSION.
ZU (ZLOOOP)
ZU
ZU
ZU
YOU CAN DEFEND AGAINST MY ATTACKS, BUT YOU CAN'T DEFEAT ME.
IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE WITH YOUR FRIENDS, YOU'D BETTER—
BYU (SLASH)
SO...
...I JUST NEED TO GET OUT OF THIS FOG, RIGHT?
HYUO (HWOOSH)
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TRUE.

GO
(BLAST)

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY TO BLOW IT AWAY, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE FROM WITHIN ...
...?
GYO (WHOOSH)
.....!!
IT'S USE-LESS.
THE FOG IT-SELF IS CREATING THIS DI-MENSION WE'RE IN RIGHT NOW.
HYUUUU (WHOOSH)
...MIS-TRESS ?
HYU...

ヒュウ
HYUU
?
!
ヒュー…
HYU...
オー
オー
OOOO
(FWOOOH)

NO WAY!
YOUR WIND...
...CAN REACH BEYOND THE DIMEN-SIONS ...?
GA (CRACK)
BA (RIP)
PISHI... (CRUMBLE...)
OOO (SMOOSH)

鬼薙
オニナギ
3
ONINAGI
AKIRA ISHIDA

Divine Article File No.001
ONINAGI
ONINAGI
RANK: A+
WIELDER: TOMOTAKA ONIGOROSHI
A bronze, double-bladed, sword-type Divine Article that has been passed down through the generations of the Oninagi family. There are magatama jewels embedded in the sword guard.
This is an extremely powerful Divine Article in and of itself (Rank B), but when the wielder infuses their own spirit energy into the sword, the article's true powers are realized.
When the sword is invoked, it surrounds the wielder in a protective layer of spirit energy, upon which weak demons are instantly vaporized on contact. Swinging the sword creates airborne waves of spirit energy, enabling simultaneous attacks on all enemies within a certain range.

I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT MY PARENTS PASSED AWAY IN A CAR ACCIDENT WAY BEFORE I COULD EVEN REMEMBER ANYTHING.
SO OF COURSE I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE.
THERE AREN'T ANY PICTURES OF MY MOM LEFT.
AND THE ONE PICTURE THAT I WAS SHOWN OF MY DAD...
BYUOOOOO (VWOOOOH)
ビュォオオオォ
ZA (STEP)
ザッ
OOO (WHOOOH)
オオォ

ACT SIXTEEN.

ACT SIXTEEN.

GOOOO (RUUUSH)
.....
OH, I GET IT.
OOOO (FWOOSH)
IT WAS INDESTRUCTIBLE FROM THE INSIDE, BUT PRETTY BRITTLE FROM THE OUTSIDE.
!
NANAMI?
...SO YOU WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT OUT.

SHUUUUU... (SIZZLE...)
KUH!
GUUH...
GAKAKA (ZING)
BA (VWAH)
RAN OUT OF TIME, HUH?
IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LAST-ED.
ZA (ZSH)
SYU (WHOOSH)

LOOKS LIKE THE MAGICIAN AND TEMPERANCE ARE DONE FOR...
...SO IT'S JUST US.

WELL, SHIT, THIS LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE.
WHY DON'T WE CALL IT A DAY FOR NOW?
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!
GURA... (STAGGER...)
KAZUTO!?
DOSA (THUD)
BA (JUMP)
HYU.. (WHOOSH...)
...!!

THE GUY I WAS FIGHTING... KAZUTO SANJOUIN?
HE...
WHY'D I LET HIM GO, YOU ASK?
.....
(RUSTLE)
HE'S ONE OF US.
LIKE YOU AND ME.
HE'LL COME TO OUR SIDE EVENTUALLY...
...HOW IS HE?
WE DON'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THAT.
THE PRESENT THAT TEMPERANCE LEFT BEHIND?
AND YOU FELT IT, RIGHT?

HMM.
SO EVERY-ONE'S OKAY?
PROBABLY USED HIS INJURED RIGHT ARM TOO MUCH.
HIS LIFE ISN'T IN ANY DANGER.

GAKUN (SHIFT)
I'M A LITTLE TIRED SO I'M GOING TO REST ...
?
I'M GLAD ALL YOUR FRIENDS ARE OKAY, NANAMI.

TCH!
THAT WAS A WASTE...
NO...
BUT I THINK I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO HER SUBCON-SCIOUSLY ...
... WHEN THAT GUY AT-TACKED US.
SO YOU DIDN'T LEARN HOW TO CONTROL THE POWER OF THE WIND?
Y—
YER.
... ARE YOU BACK ?

!?
BUT I'M NOT LETTING ANY OF YOU GET AWAY.
THAT FLOWER BARRIER WASN'T THE ONLY TRICK UP MY SLEEVE.
ZAWA (RUSTLE)
THIS ENTIRE FOREST...
...TO THE VERY LAST LEAF...
...IS UNDER MY CONTROL...
GIRO... (GLARE...)
I'LL INGEST ALL OF YOU AND MAKE YOUR POWERS MINE...
NOT A SINGLE ONE OF YOU WILL ESCAPE...!!

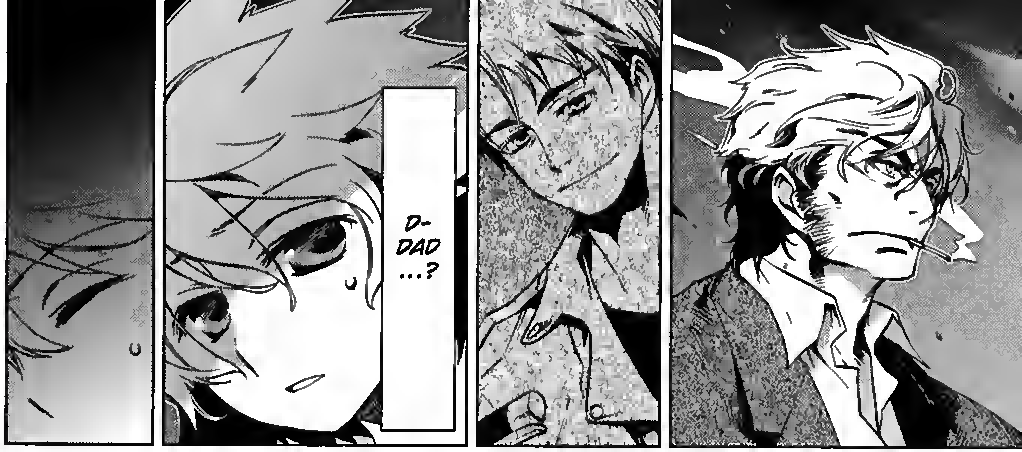
ZUA (ZWOP)
GIN (BLINK)
NANAMI...!!
YOU FIRST!
HOW DARE YOU DESTROY MY PHYSICAL BODY!
...SHIT!
ONINAGI ISN'T GOING TO MAKE IT TO NANAMI IN TIME ...
MISTRESS...!!
AAAAH!

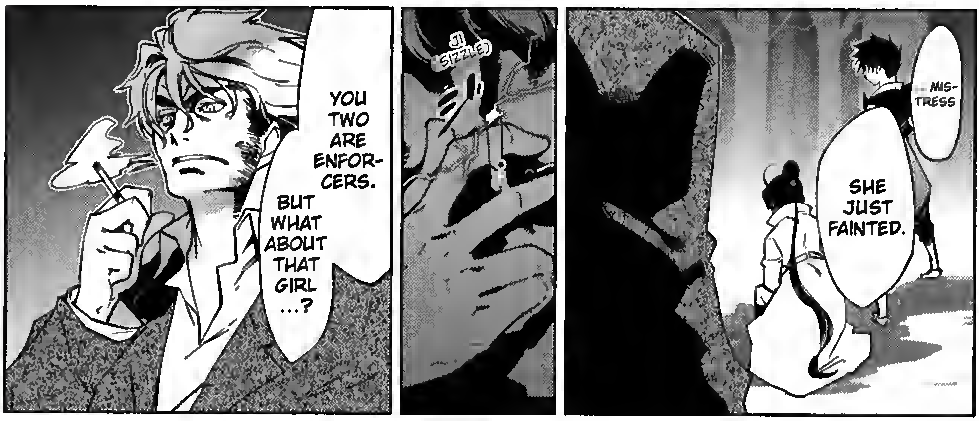
HYUGO (FWOOSH)
KA (THUNK)
...?
CAN'T... MOVE...
CLIP STRIP
SO THAT'S WHERE THE MAIN BODY IS...
THERE'S A BARRIER AROUND THE FOREST TOO.
ENDS UP THAT YOU'RE THE ONE NOT ABLE TO ESCAPE.
...!!
...YOU...

P! (BEEP)
14:08 HOURS. CONFIRMING THE PRESENCE OF TARGET'S MAIN BODY.
MIMIC TYPE, GRADE ONE DEMON, JIIISHU.
HIGAN KAGIMURA, SLAYER FIRST CLASS.
TERMINATION UNDERWAY!

YOU DIDN T THINK I'D NOTICE SUCH AN ELABORATE SPELL AS THIS?
END OF THE ROAD FOR YOU TODAY.
FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH YOU, JIII-SHU... IT'S BEEN, WHAT, TWO YEARS ?
HIGAN ...
WHY, YOU ...
GA
GA
HYU
CHWOOSHU
G
CWH
CK)
GA
YOU ...
HYUO

DO
...
DO
SH—
SHIT
...
DO
DO
DO
DO
(THUD)
.....
GO
(ROAR)


D-DAD ...?


YOU TWO ARE ENFOR-CERS.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT GIRL ...?
(U SIGHS)
... MIS-TRESS
SHE JUST FAINTED.

SHE... IS MY FRIEND ...
AND THAT DEMON THERE?

THEY ARE CO-OPER-ATING WITH US.
THE DEMON IS THE GIRL'S FAMILIAR.

...I SEE
THEN I GUESS THERE ISN'T ANYTHING I NEED TO REPORT
SEE YA.
ZA (ZSHA)

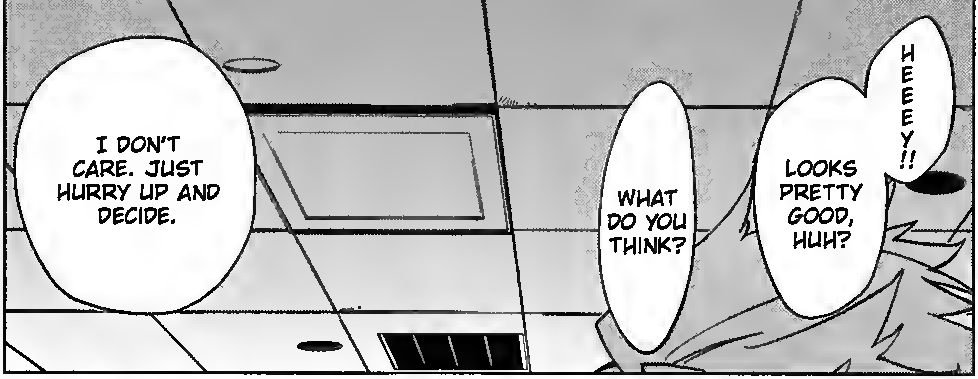
...SO THAT WAS HIGAN KAGI-MURA ...
YOU KNOW HIM?
I HAVE HEARD OF HIM.
HE IS THE EN-FORCER WHO USES THE DIVINE ARTICLE VAJRA ...
AND HIS DEMON TERMINATION RATE IS UNSUR-PASSED BY ANYONE IN ALL OF ENFORCER HISTORY.
HE HAS HUNTED DOWN THE GREATEST NUMBER OF DEMONS OF ANYONE.

WHEN NANAMI GETS BACK HOME... I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO HER ABOUT THIS.
ABOUT HER PARENTS... HER FATHER, TOUMA...
...AND...

DOCUMENT. KAGIMURA HOUSE...

鬼薙
オニナギ
3
ONINAGI
AKIRA ISHIDA

Divine Article File No.002
JEWEL OF TAESU
RANK: C
WIELDER: TOMOTAKA ONIGOROSHI
A magatama jewel necklace-type Divine Article that has been passed down through the generations in the Onigoroshi family.
A wielder's spirit power is accumulated and stored within the magatama jewels, which are worn in necklace form. The power of the jewels is invoked by extracting them from the necklace. The jewels have a wide range of uses such as releasing spirit energy all at once as a spirit energy bomb or a simple barrier. Placing the magatama jewel into Oninegi also enables spirit energy rejuvenation.
The magatama jewels can only be used once. Once used, they cannot be recycled.
To create new magatama jewels, the wielder must place a jade magatama jewel they themselves have polished onto the necklace and wear it on their body so that it can accumulate spirit energy. Creating a jewel is limited to one a day, and up to eight jewels maximum per day can be reenergized.


I DON'T CARE. JUST HURRY UP AND DECIDE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
LOOKS PRETTY GOOD, HUH?
HEEEY!!

WHY DO I HAVE TO BE HERE ANYWAY?
COME ON, BE SERIOUS.
GEEZ!

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A DEMON.
...'COS THE TWO OF US GOING SHOPPING WOULD SEEM LIKE A DATE.
WELL...

I DON'T LIKE DOING THAT!
.....
HE'S YOUR PUPPET.
YOU CAN DRESS AND CHANGE HIM HOWEVER YOU WANT.
ACT SEVENTEEN.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CLOTHES, TSURUGI-SAN?
THEY FIT TIGHT AGAINST THE SKIN SO IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO MOVE AROUND.
NOT SURPRISING, GOING FROM JAPANESE TO WESTERN CLOTHES.

...THOUGH I'D RATHER IT NOT COME TO THAT, BUT...
JUST IN CASE, I GUESS
YEAH, TRUE...
THE SLEEVES WILL GET TORN UP WHEN HE BUSTS OUT HIS SWORDS.

HM, GUESS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO WEAR CLOTHES YOU CAN MOVE AROUND IN...
...FOR FIGHT-ING...

TSURUGI-SAN, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO WEAR?
NO PREFER-ENCE.
THE CLOTHES I HAD BEFORE WERE FINE...
NO! THEY WERE ALL RATTY!
PLUS, YOU'D STAND OUT TOO MUCH WALKING AROUND LIKE THAT IN THIS DAY AND AGE.
... YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, CHIKA-CHAN...

WE'RE GONNA KEEP TRYING THINGS ON UNTIL WE FIND SOMETHING THAT FITS!
WHAT!?
NO WAY!
THESE CLOTHES THAT MISTRESS'S GRANDFATHER GAVE ME WILL DO FINE.

AAGH!
DON'T CHANGE OUT HERE!
CLOSE THE CURTAIN!!

HMM ...
DOSA (PILE)
OKAY!
TRY THESE ON!

GUESS I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
WORRY?
WELL...
WITH ALL THE STUFF ABOUT YOUR PARENTS AND EVERYTHING ELSE...YOU KNOW?
OOH... WHAT GRANDPA SAID?
YEAH... I WAS SHOCKED AT FIRST.
BUT...
I'D ALREADY HEARD ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MY DAD... STILL BEING ALIVE... YESTERDAY MORNING.
AND SO MUCH ELSE HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO... MY DAD HANDED ME, A NEWBORN, OVER TO GRANDPA...

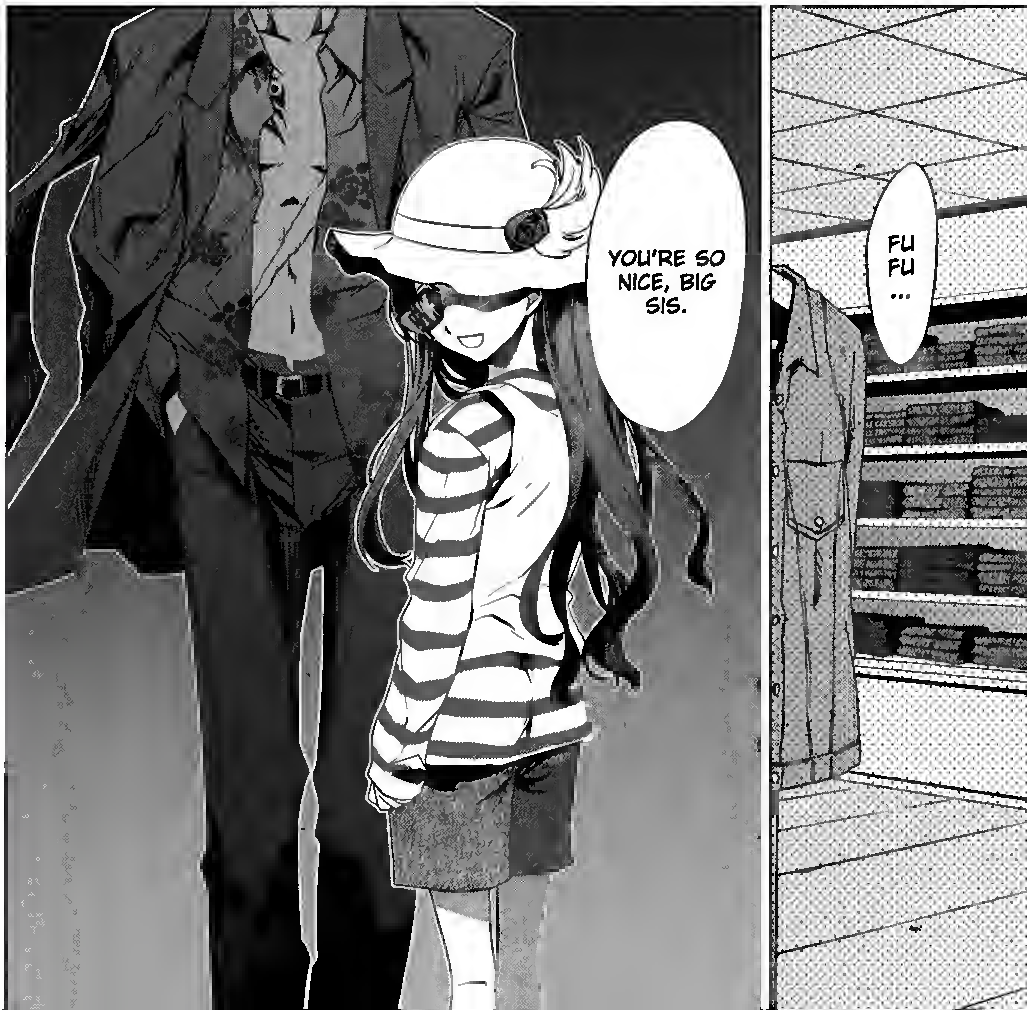
...AND THEN DISAP-PEARED ONCE MORE...
...WITH ...
...THE WOMAN THOUGHT TO BE MY MOM...
AND ...
...MOST LIKELY, IT WAS MY DAD'S YOUNGER TWIN WHO SAVED ME YESTER-DAY...
MY UNCLE WHO WAS FOSTERED ELSEWHERE ...

I THOUGHT GRANDPA WAS MY ONLY FAMILY.
BUT NOW THERE'S A CHANCE THAT THE PARENTS I THOUGHT WERE DEAD ARE ACTUALLY ALIVE.
AND NOW I HAVE AN UNCLE. ISN'T THAT GREAT NEWS?
I HAVE PUT IT ON.
PFFFFT!
NOT LIKE THAT!!
RIGHT.
MADE OF STRONGER STUFF THAN I THOUGHT ...
... AREN'T YOU?
WHAT IS *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

AH-HA-HA...
NO, HERE, LIKE THIS...
PYON (CLIMB)
PYON
THIS HAT?
Y-YUP.
PURU (REAACH)
PURU

HERE!
THANKS, BIG SIS!
♪

SFX: TO TA (TROT) TA TA TA



DITCH YOUR SARCASM, FOOL.
YOU KNOW WHY.
THINGS HAVE QUIETED DOWN A LOT HERE.
WONDER WHY. HUH. STRENGTH?
K. (KLICK)

WELL, YEAH.
SO YOU FOUND UZUME?
WISH YOU'D TOLD ME TOO.
I THOUGHT WE'D BE ENOUGH...
...SINCE THE ENFORCERS HAVEN'T NOTICED YET EITHER.
REALLY?
BUT I THOUGHT AN ENFORCER ...
THAT WAS JUST A ROGUE ACTION ON THE PART OF A SOLO ENFORCER.
THE MINISTRY HASN'T CAUGHT ON YET.
OH...
BUT ...
YEAH, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME.

THEY'LL PROBABLY SENSE OUR EXISTENCE SOON TOO... US, THE ARCANA.
WE'D BETTER GET OUR HANDS ON UZUME BEFORE THEN...
I KNOW.
...WHAT ABOUT THE REST?
AS FOR THE OTHERS, THE EMPEROR IS GATHERING THEM.
NO WORRIES THERE.
EHN...
OLD MAN MIKADO, HUH? THEN WE'RE GOOD.
GUSH GUSH

GRR?
THANK YOU.
THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM.
WELL DONE, GARAN.
GRR...
THESE TIMES HAVE BECOME AWFUL BOTHER-SOME I SAY.
GRAND-PA?
CAN I GO OVER THERE?
THEY'LL FIND OUT SOON THAT THIS GROUP IS DONE FOR, YES?
WITH THAT WAVE BUSI-NESS-?
CELL PHONES, YOU MEAN?
OH, YOU USED HIS REAL NAME AGAIN.
YOU HAVE TO CALL HIM TOWER
HMPH.
I'M NOT USING ANY OF THAT FOR-EIGN DRI-VEL.

GRR...
THANK YOU.
THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM.
WELL DONE, GARAN.
OH. YOU USED HIS REAL NAME AGAIN.
YOU HAVE TO CALL HIM TOWER.
HMPH.
I'M NOT USING ANY OF THAT FOR-EIGN DRI-VEL.

GRR?
THESE TIMES HAVE BECOME AWFUL BOTHER-SOME, I SAY.
GRAND-PA?
CAN I GO OVER THERE?
THEY'LL FIND OUT SOON THAT THIS GROUP IS DONE FOR, YES?
WITH THAT WAVE BUSI-NESS-?
CELL PHONES, YOU MEAN?

I WANT TO GO SEE FORTUNE.
AH...
GO ON THEN.
GRR...
GARAN...
YOU GO TOO.
THANKS, TOWER! ♪

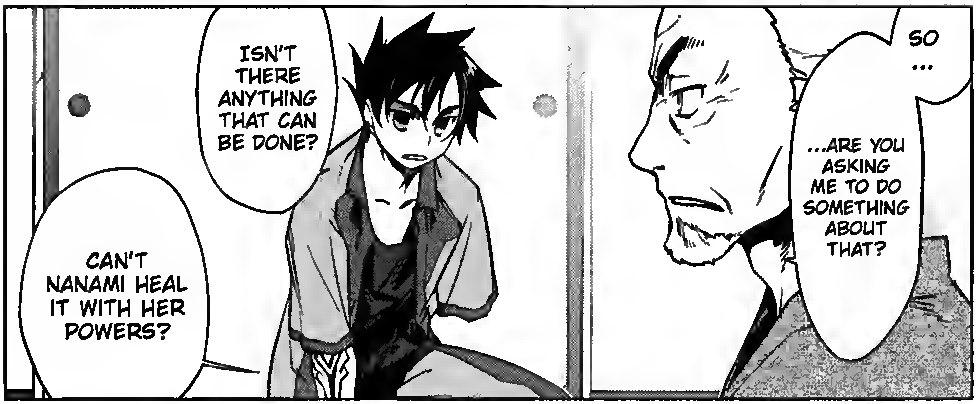
OH, YOU'RE ALONE.
YOU'VE CLEANED UP NICE.
WHAT ABOUT NANAMI?
SHE MENTIONED SHE NEEDED TO SPEAK WITH LADY ONIGOROSHI ...
GI CREAK
YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT? I AGREED TO CO-HABITATION ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF NANAMI'S SAFETY, BUT I DEMAND RESPONSIBLE LIVING.
KUDO KUDO (LECTURE)
I UNDER-STAND.
HOUSE ELDER ...
I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

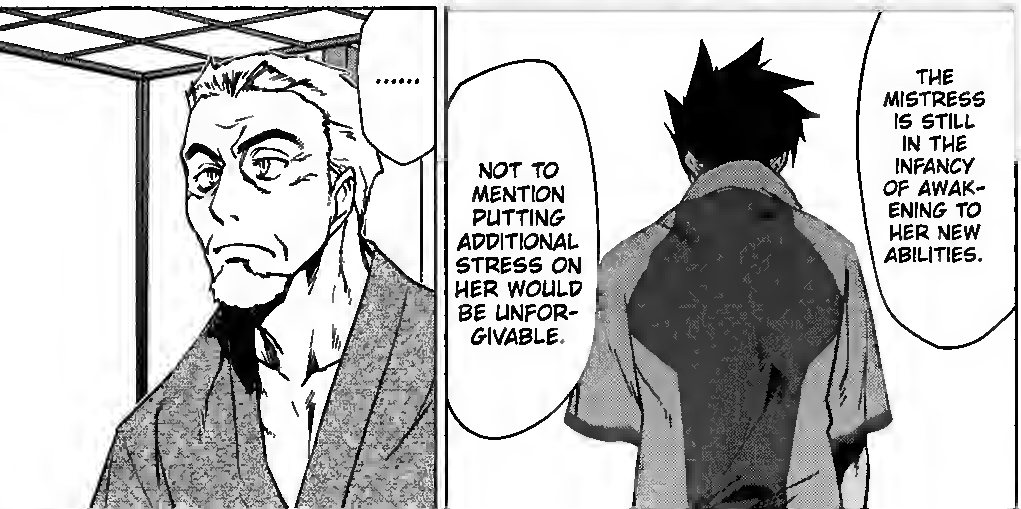
I LACK AN ARM.

...IN THE LAST BATTLE, I WAS SEPARATED FROM THE MISTRESS.
I COULD NEITHER DEFEAT THE ENEMY BEFORE ME, NOR GO TO MY MISTRESS'S AID.

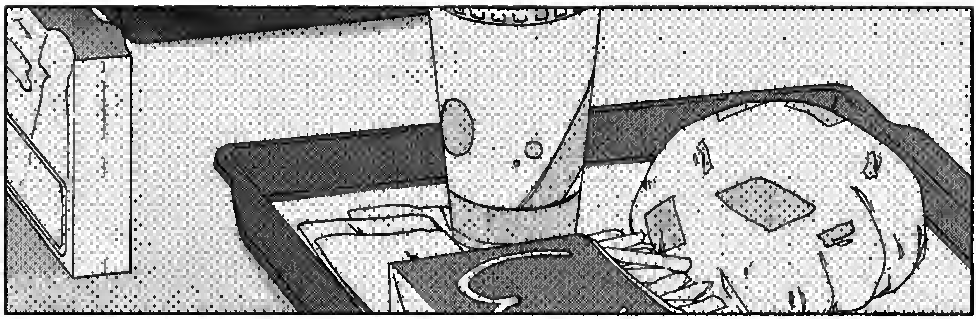
.....
I CAN SEE THAT.

.....
...I DON'T FEAR MY OWN DEATH.
BUT I CANNOT HAVE THAT FACT OR THIS INJURY BRING HARM TO MY MISTRESS.


SO ...
...ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE?
CAN'T NANAMI HEAL IT WITH HER POWERS?


.....
THE MISTRESS IS STILL IN THE INFANCY OF AWAKENING TO HER NEW ABILITIES.
NOT TO MENTION PUTTING ADDITIONAL STRESS ON HER WOULD BE UNFORGIVABLE.

PLEASE.
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN COME UP WITH.



YESTERDAY WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY HAIRY, WASN'T IT...?
YEAH.

CHIKA-CHAN, HOW ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?
IT WAS A GOOD MATCH-UP FOR ME.
HE WAS NOT WEAK, BUT IT WAS FUN.
SENPAI IS BACK IN THE HOSPI-TAL.
HE WAS ALREADY INJURED WHEN HE HAD TO GO UP AGAINST THEIR LEADER...
HUH ?
... UM ... IS IT BETTER IF I'M ABLE TO CONTROL MY POWERS?
.....
...THE DEMONS WILL MOST LIKELY KEEP COMING AFTER YOU.
IT WOULDN'T HURT TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND YOUR-SELF.
AND... THERE'S A REALLY HIGH PROB-ABILITY THAT THERE'S ANOTHER POWER HIDDEN WITHIN YOU.

GYU... (SQUEEZE...)
DOKI... (BADUMP...)
THAT INNER POWER MIGHT BE THE REASON YOU'RE BEING TARGETED.
HM?
CHIKA-CHAN?
I...
...WANT TO BE ABLE TO FULLY USE THAT POWER.

I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE YOU AND SENPAI WITH ALL MY PROBLEMS...
I WANT TO KNOW THE REASON WHY I'M BEING TARGETED.
AND ...
...I ALSO WANT TO KNOW...
...THE REASON WHY MY PARENTS LEFT ME AND DISAP-PEARED.

...
THEN... SHALL WE GO?
GO? WHERE?
TO TRAIN ...
...WITH MY TEACHER.

鬼薙
オニナギ
3
ONINAGI
AKIRA ISHIDA

Divine Article File No.003
MIRROR OF MIFUTSU
ONINAGI
RANK: B
WIELDER: TOMOTAKA ONIGOROSHI
A bronze mirror-type Divine Article that has been passed down through the generations in the Onigoroshi family.
By gazing at the bronze mirror and exchanging spirit energy with it, the mirror becomes housed within the wielder's eyes.
Nullifies all illusions and optical tricks lower than Rank B.

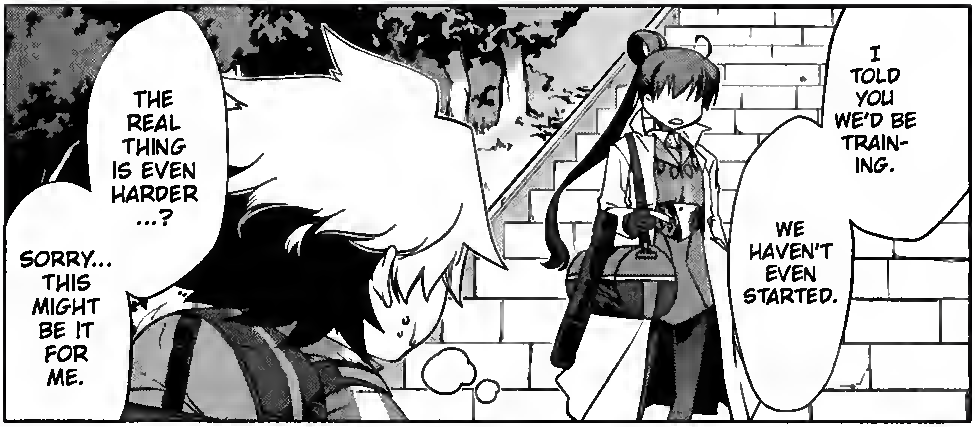
HAH...
HAH...

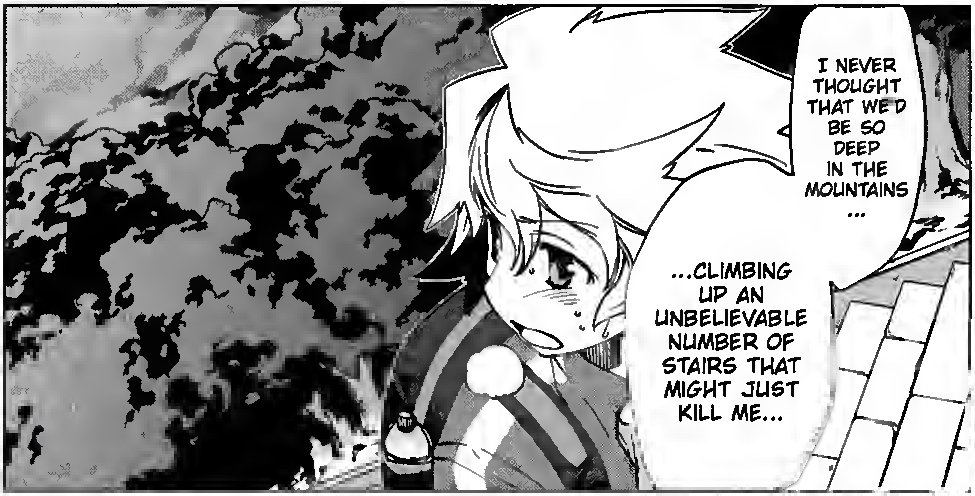
W—
WAIT JUST A SEC...
WHAT, AGAIN?

B—
BUT ...

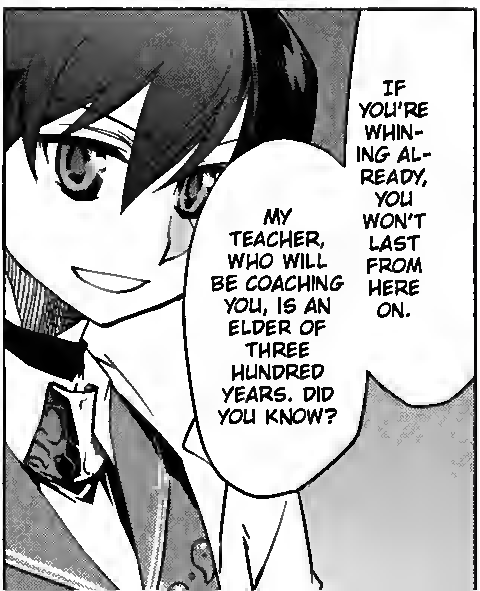
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, THE SUN WILL SET BEFORE WE GET THERE.

...YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THIS!!
ACT EIGHTEEN.


I TOLD YOU WE'D BE TRAIN-ING.
WE HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED.
THE REAL THING IS EVEN HARDER ...?
SORRY... THIS MIGHT BE IT FOR ME.


I NEVER THOUGHT THAT WE'D BE SO DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS ...
...CLIMBING UP AN UNBELIEVABLE NUMBER OF STAIRS THAT MIGHT JUST KILL ME...

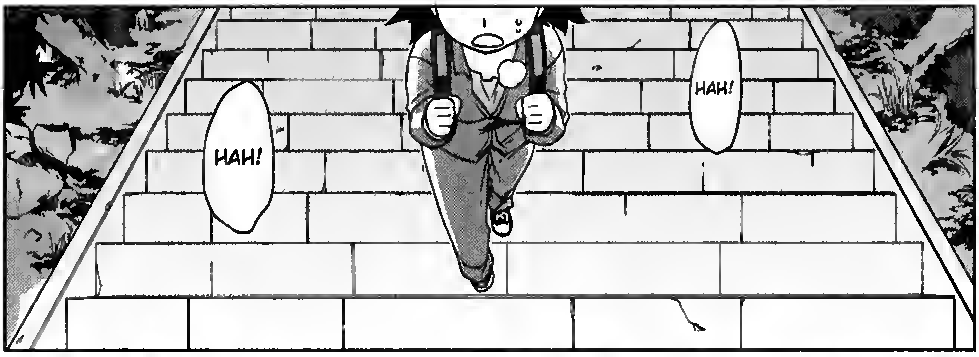
THREE HUNDRED YEARS OLD...!?
THREE HUNDRED, I AM.


IF YOU'RE WHIN-ING AL-READY, YOU WON'T LAST FROM HERE ON.
MY TEACHER, WHO WILL BE COACHING YOU, IS AN ELDER OF THREE HUNDRED YEARS. DID YOU KNOW?

!
!?
OH MY... IS THAT SORT OF SPEECH REALLY ACCEPT-ABLE?
OH... YES, SHIZUKA-SAN!
CHIKA-CHAN'S USING HONOR-IFICS!?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, TOMO-TAKA-SAN.
IS THIS LADY THE ONE YOU MEN-TIONED?
SO IS THIS THE PERSON WHO'S THREE HUNDRED YEARS OLD ...?

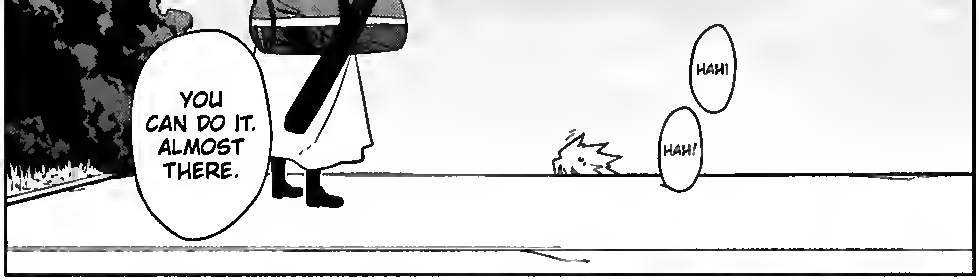
NO, THAT WOULD NOT BE I.
ZOKU (SHIVER)
O-OKAY.
I AM THE SAKAZUKI SHRINE'S PRIESTESS.
MY NAME IS SHIZUKA SAKAZUKI. IT IS VERY NICE TO MEET YOU.
OH.
PEKO (BOW)
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO. MY NAME IS NANAMI KUSHIMIYA. THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.
HO HO HO!
AND I AM STILL FAIRLY YOUNG.
UH...

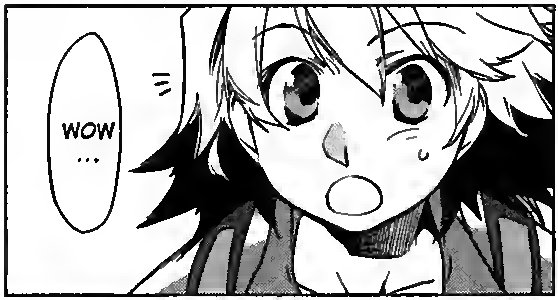
O-OKAY.
NOW...
IT IS ONLY A LITTLE FARTHER, SO DO YOUR BEST.

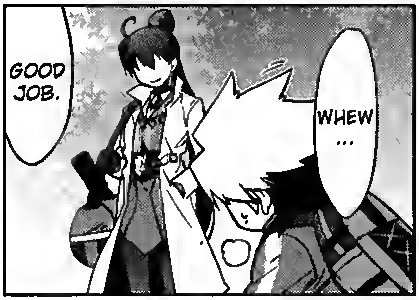

HAH!
HAH!

!
PII...N (PI...ING)
Z (ZSH...)

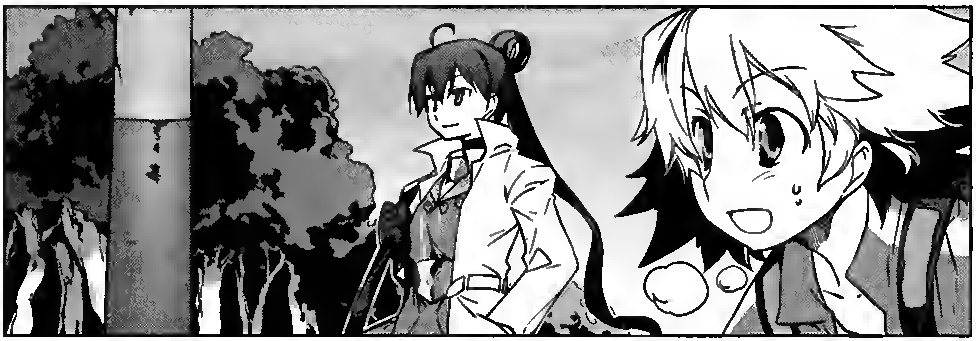
YEAH... SOMETHING TINGLY, LIKE ELECTRICITY ...
IS IT LIKE THAT BARRIER THAT YOU MADE BEFORE, CHIKA-CHAN?
DID YOU FEEL SOME-THING?
...?
OH, SOR-RY.
WHAT!? WHAT'S THIS AGREEING ABOUT?
I SEE... JUST LIKE YOU SAID, TOMO-TAKA-SAN.
?
HMM. I KNEW IT.
JUST AS I HEARD... YOU POSSESS DEMONIC POWERS, BUT NOT THE TAINT.
HOW FASCI-NATING.
...DEMONS WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EVEN TOUCH THE BARRIER.
THE BARRIER HERE IS SPECIAL, AND NOTHING TAINTED CAN ENTER.
IN OTHER WORDS ...


YOU CAN DO IT. ALMOST THERE.
HAH!
HAH!


WOW ...


GOOD JOB.
WHEW ...

WEL-
COME
...
...TO
SAKAZUKI
SHRINE.



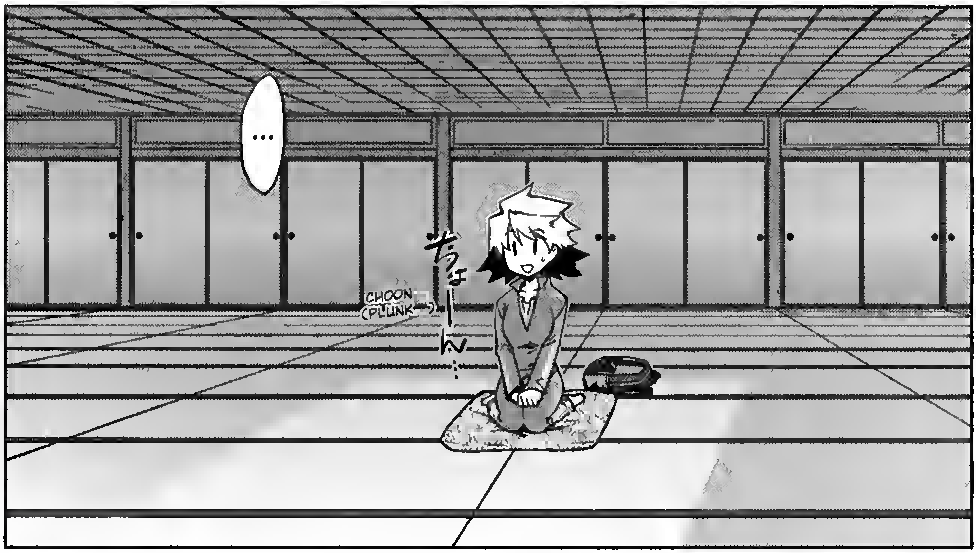
...
I
SEE.
IN-
TER-
EST-
ING
...

HM
...
SHE'S
HERE.

!
...I CAN'T SEE HER ANYMORE.
!?
THEY'RE IN!? THEY'RE AT THE SAKAZUKI SHRINE!?
YES, I THINK SO...
...NOW I'M SURE THERE'S SOMETHING UP WITH THIS UZUME GIRL.
SHIT.
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
THEY ESCAPED INTO A TRICKY PLACE...
WE CAN'T TOUCH THEM THERE.

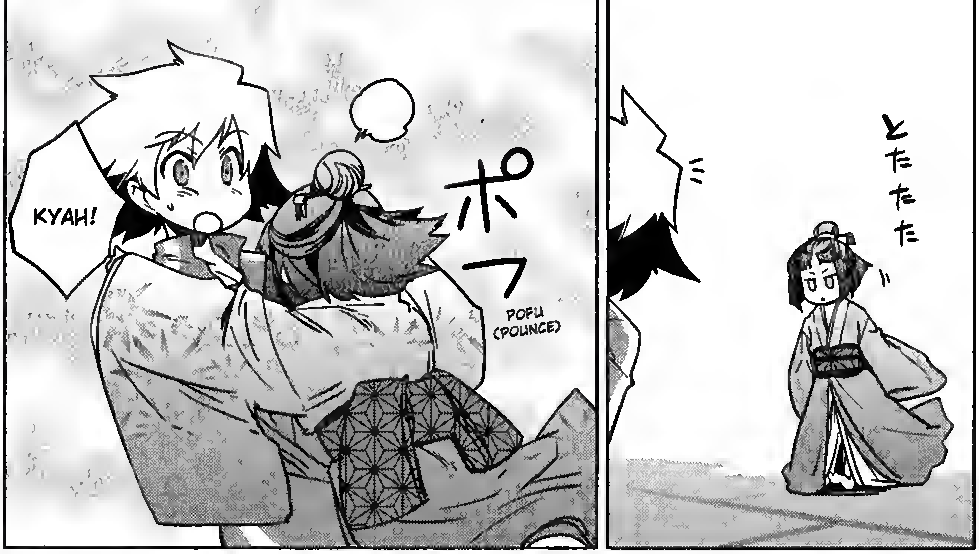
.....
THERE IS A WAY.
!
YOU SERI-OUS?
YUP
WE JUST NEED TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT THE BARRIER AROUND THE SHRINE, RIGHT?
GRR...
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ?
YEAH. THEN WE HAVE A CHANCE ?
WHO KNOWS ?
...WANNA GIVE IT A GO?
YEAH.
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

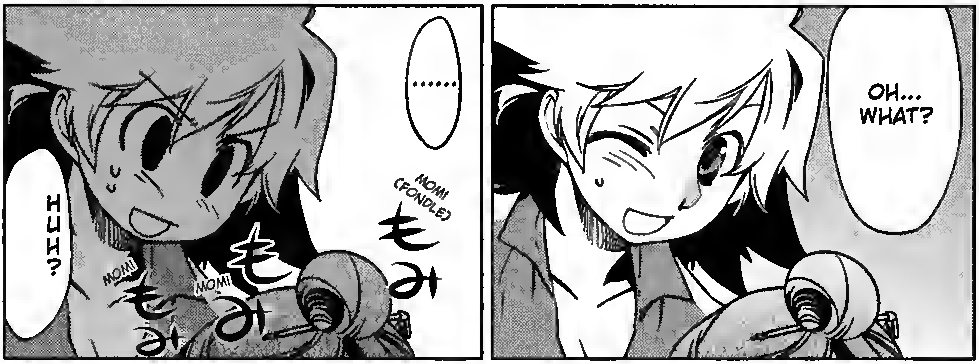
PLEASE WAIT HERE IN THIS ROOM.
WE'RE GOING TO GO TALK WITH MY TEACHER FIRST.
SEE YOU LATER.


...
CHOON (PLUNK)

?
TOTA (PITTER)
TATA (PATTER)
TATA
THE SHRINE'S A LOT BIGGER THAN I IMAGINED.
AND CLEAN TOO.
WOW

HYOI (PEEK)
ひょい
OH.
HOW CUTE. ♪
SO THERE ARE KIDS HERE TOO. I WONDER IF SHE'S PART OF THIS PLACE?
JIIII (STARE...)
じ――!…
カ――
NEEE!!
HELLO!
MY NAME'S NANAMI.
WHAT'S YOURS?
.....


KYAH!
ポフ
POFU (POUNCE)
とたたた
SFX: TO TA (TROT) TA TA


.....
HUH?
MOMI (FONDLE)
もみ
MOMI
もみ
MOMI
もみ
OH... WHAT?

AAH!
FIGURES...
STOP THAT!
MOMI
もみ
MOMI
もみ
STO...
AH HA HA HA!

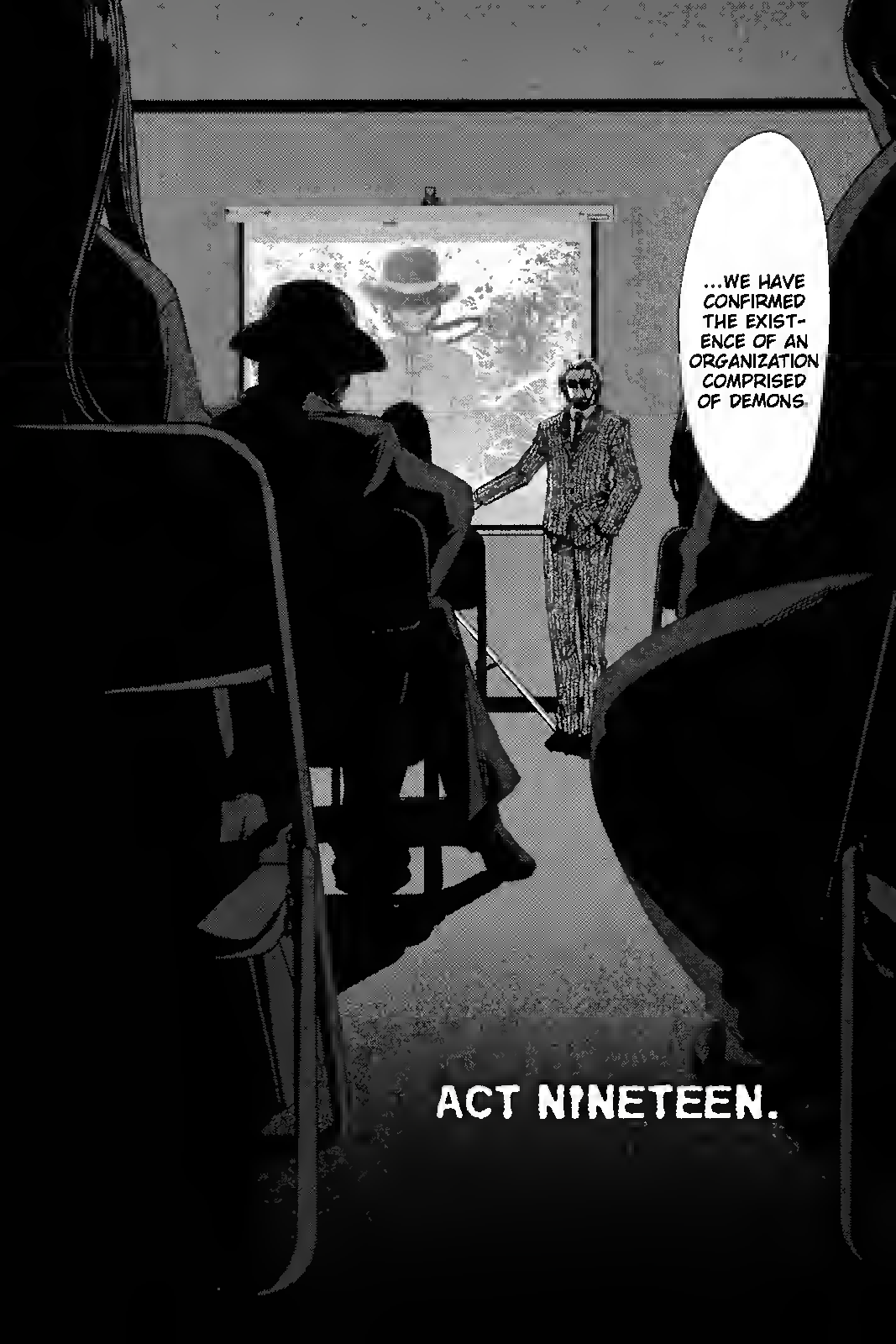
CHIKA-CHAN, SHIZUKA-SAN...
WHAT'S WITH THIS KID?
HM.
HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL ...
NO ...
...THAT'S MY TEACHER.
I SAY THAT RELUC-TANTLY THOUGH.
HUH?
THERE...
THE EMBODI-MENT OF THE SAKA-ZUKI SHRINE DEITY SPIRIT ...
DIVINE VESSEL, "SAKA-ZUKI"-SAMA.

WHAT!?
WH—
HMPH.
I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO BE LIKE, BEING INTRODUCED THROUGH TOMOTAKA.
YOU SEEM LIKE FUN.
I'M WARNING YOU NOW ...
...MY TRAINING ISN'T A WALK IN THE PARK, OKAY?

鬼籌
オニナギ
3
ONINAGI
AKIRA ISHIDA

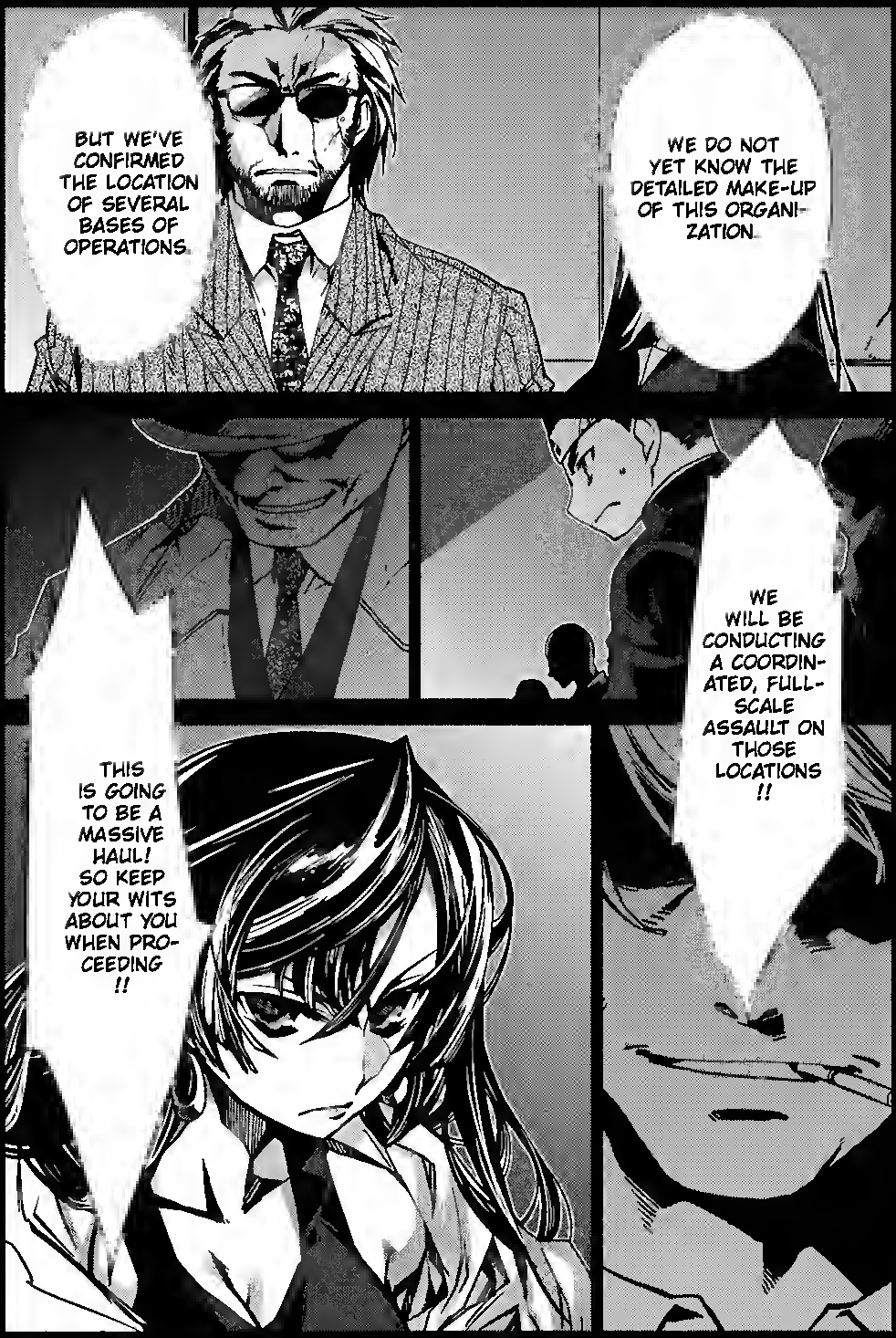
Divine Article File No.004
HAND OF SEIMAN
RANK: E
WIELDER: KAZUTO SANJOUIN
A glove-type Divine Article with a pentagram pattern belonging to the Sanjouin House. When invoked, the article allows the wielder to gather taint in the palm of their hands without being infected.
Originally a Divine Article meant for use by sorcerers to gather taint necessary for their demonic familiars and does not itself have the power to form taint into needle form.
The needle formation is an original creation by Kazuto. By honing the accumulated taint into fine needles, it becomes a kind of simple demonic familiar.

...TSUCHIGUMO GYOUJI KATOU.
GRADE TWO DEMON...
JIIISHU. FROM THE MAINLAND.
GRADE ONE DEMON ...
UPON FURTHER INVESTI-GATION ...
DEMONS THAT HAVE ELUDED US THESE PAST SEVERAL YEARS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN TERMINATED.



ACT NINETEEN.

AN ORGA-NIZA-TION?
YES.
IT SEEMS THEY'VE BANDED TOGETHER IN ORDER TO ESCAPE PERSECUTION BY THE MINISTRY OF SACRED TREASURES.
THROUGH INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATIONS, WE DISCOVERED THEY WERE REFERRING TO ONE ANOTHER NOT BY THEIR REAL NAMES, BUT BY CODE NAMES CORRESPONDING TO THOSE ON TAROT CARDS.
WE WILL BE REFERRING TO THEIR ORGANIZATION BY THE NAME OF "ARCANA."
HOW MANY ARE THERE?

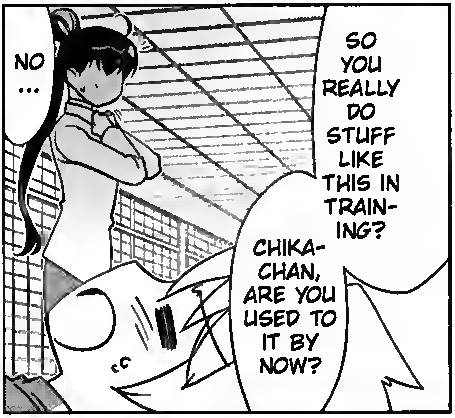

BUT WE'VE CONFIRMED THE LOCATION OF SEVERAL BASES OF OPERATIONS.
WE DO NOT YET KNOW THE DETAILED MAKE-UP OF THIS ORGANIZATION.
WE WILL BE CONDUCTING A COORDINATED, FULL-SCALE ASSAULT ON THOSE LOCATIONS !!
THIS IS GOING TO BE A MASSIVE HAUL! SO KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU WHEN PROCEEDING !!

AAH!
AAAAAAAH!
HEY, YOU STILL ALIVE?
...
AAH...

DO
DO
DO

I FEEL LIKE I'M GONNA DIE...
GORON (ROLL)
HAAAH...

EH?
I NEVER DID ANY-THING LIKE THIS.

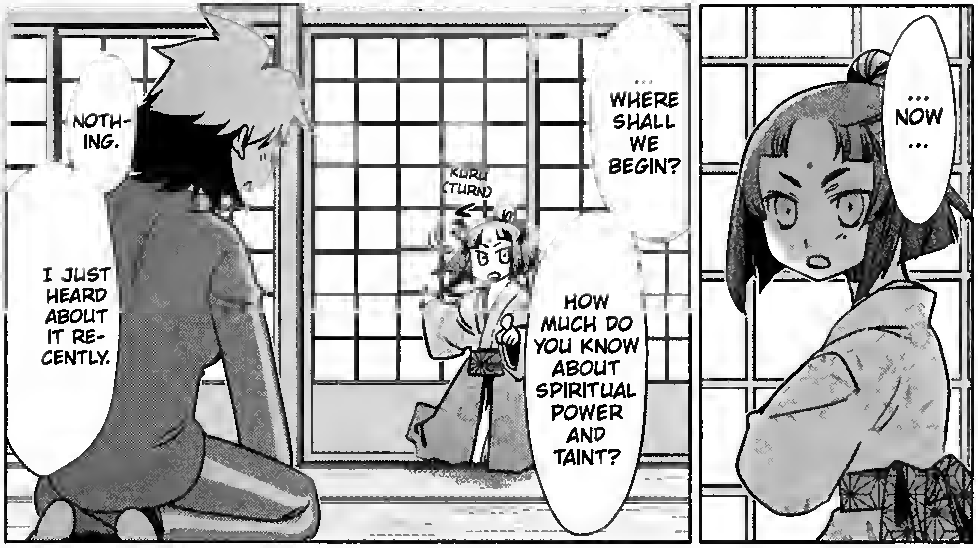

NO ...
SO YOU REALLY DO STUFF LIKE THIS IN TRAIN-ING?
CHIKA-CHAN, ARE YOU USED TO IT BY NOW?

I'M GLAD YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR-SELF.
I EXPEC-TED IT. I DIDN'T HOPE FOR IT!
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME!?

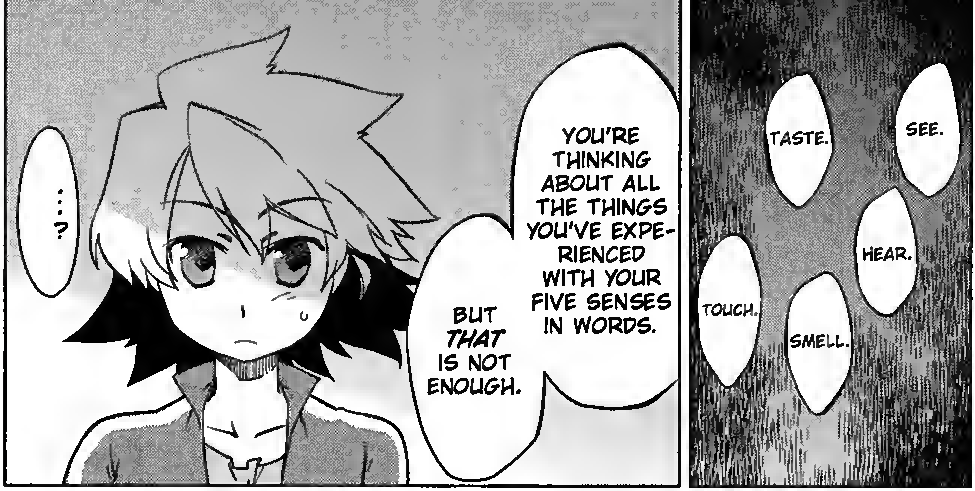
AH, THIS IS WHAT HAZING IS ALL ABOUT!
ONE HAS TO LIVE UP TO THE HOPES OF OTHERS, RIGHT!?

DON'T WORRY. FROM HERE ON, WE'LL BE DOING MEN... TAL...TRAI...
MENTAL TRAIN-ING.
YES, THAT'S IT.
IT'S TRAINING THAT'S NOT PHYSICAL AT ALL, SO IT'LL BE EASY.
ARE YOU SURE...? I HOPE IT'S ACTUAL TRAINING ...?

THANK YOU FOR TODAY.
YOU ARE QUITE THE GOOD SPORT FOR DOING ALL THIS.
NEVER AGAIN.
ARE THE PRANKS GETTING WORSE?
THE TEACHER HAS BEEN ENGROSSED IN TELE-VISION AND MANGA LATELY, AFTER ALL.


... NOW ...
... WHERE SHALL WE BEGIN?
KURU KURU
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SPIRITUAL POWER AND TAINT?
NOTH-ING.
I JUST HEARD ABOUT IT RE-CENTLY.

YOU MUST THINK IN WORDS?
WELL, YES. OF COURSE.
HM.
HOW DO YOU THINK?
...? HOW?
DO YOU KNOW HOW YOU THOUGHT BEFORE YOU LEARNED WORDS?
EH ...?
YOU MEAN, WHEN I WAS A BABY?
THAT'S NATURAL.
JAPANESE PEOPLE THINK IN JAPANESE.
FOREIGNERS THINK IN THEIR OWN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.
TO FEEL IS TO THINK.
FROM THAT STATE, YOU BUNDLED THE THINGS YOU FELT INTO WORDS, AND YOU LEARNED TO COMMUNICATE.

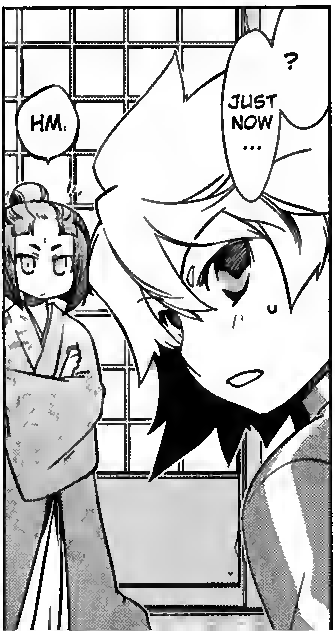

...?
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE EXPERIENCED WITH YOUR FIVE SENSES IN WORDS.
BUT THAT IS NOT ENOUGH.
SEE.
TASTE.
HEAR.
TOUCH.
SMELL.

THUS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPREHEND IN WORDS.
WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO EXPERIENCE LIES OUTSIDE THE REALM OF THE FIVE SENSES.

FROM THAT STATE, LET GO OF YOUR PHYSICAL BODY.
AND FROM THE SPIRITUAL STATE ABOVE ...
LIKE THAT. LET GO OF ALL YOUR FIVE SENSES.
AND RETURN YOUR BODY TO JUST THE SPIRIT.
LET GO OF YOUR SENSE OF SIGHT ...
LET GO OF YOUR SENSE OF TOUCH.
LET GO OF YOUR WORDS.

...LOOK DOWN UPON YOUR PHYSICAL BODY.
ZOKU (SHIVER)

?
GOOD INSTINCTS.
YOU SENSED MY SPIRIT GAZE.


?
JUST NOW ...
HM.

THIS PLACE HAS A BARRIER SO THAT TAINT CAN'T ENTER.
!
ALTHOUGH THINGS ARE DIFFERENT WITHIN THE SHRINE.
BUT IT TAKES MORE THAN A SINGLE DAY AND NIGHT TO GET THAT SORT OF SKILL.
IT'S ALSO VERY DANGEROUS FOR THE SPIRIT TO COME INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH TAINT.
HM?
UM... ARE THERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TAINT AND DIVINE ARTICLES AND STUFF?
WHAT, YOU DIDN'T GET THAT TALK YET?
TOMOTAKA IS BEING LAX.
TAINT IS LIKE THE DREGS OF NATURE.
IT CAN BE FOUND DWELLING WITHIN THE DEATHS OF LIVING CREATURES.
WHEN THESE COLLECT AND HARDEN... A DEMON MATERIALIZES.
IN CONTRAST, THE POWER OF THE DIVINE ARTICLES...IS SPIRITUAL AND DERIVED FROM A PERSON'S SOUL.
AS LONG AS ONE MAINTAINS ONE'S SOUL AND KEEPS IT UNCLOUDED, IT WILL NOT BECOME CONTAMINATED WITH TAINT.
ONE CAN EXORCISE TAINT AND PURIFY DEMONS.

DIVINE ARTICLES HAVE EITHER EXISTED FROM THE PAST... OR ARE RITUALISTIC ARTICLES THAT HOUSE THE SOUL OF THE SAID SPIRITUAL PERSON.
THEY ARE, ESSENTIALLY, BALLS OF SPIRITUAL POWER.
KURU (TWIRL)
IN FACT, I TOO AM A SPIRIT WIELDER WHO TRANSITIONED MY OWN BODY FROM THE PHYSICAL TO THE DIVINE ARTICLE SPIRIT STATE THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
HUH? THEN SAKAZUKI-SAMA, YOU WERE HUMAN BEFORE TOO?
CORRECT.
THERE ARE THOSE LIKE ME, DIVINE VESSELS WHO WERE FORMERLY HUMAN, BUT HAVE NO SELF.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE RARE INSTANCES WHERE THE SELF COMES TO RESIDE DIRECTLY WITHIN A DIVINE ARTICLE.
SO AN ORGANIZATION WAS CREATED TO CARE FOR THOSE *DIVINE ARTICLES* ...
...AND TO HUNT DOWN DEMONS.
THEY ARE THE MINISTRY OF SACRED TREASURES. TOMOTAKA AND THE OTHERS ARE A PART OF THAT GROUP.

KOTO
KATUNK
HAVE A PLEA-SANT DAY.
YEAH.
IS THAT... TEACHER'S ...?
YES.
A SPIRIT CLONE ... A PART OF HER.
LIKE A SPIRITUAL POWER VERSION OF A DEMONIC FAMILIAR.
HOW MANY ARE THERE?
ABOUT TWENTY, SINCE THE ONLY PERSON HERE AT THE SHRINE IS ME.
SO?
HAVE YOU GUESSED AT THE SECRET BEHIND THAT GIRL'S POWERS?
YEAH.
MOST LIKELY ...

MOST LIKELY, YOUR BLOOD ITSELF IS THE DIVINE ARTICLE.
...SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOUR ANCESTORS, BY COMPELLING A DEMON TO BEAR A CHILD, THUS LOCKED ITS POWERS AWAY.
AND THOSE POWERS NOW RESIDE WITHIN YOU...
BLOOD?
WHAT'S WITH THAT POSE?
RIGHT
BI (SAID)
IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR FAMILY HAS PROBABLY BEEN PASSING DOWN THAT BLOOD THROUGH THE GENERATIONS. THE DEMONIC POWERS BEING CONVERTED INTO SPIRITUAL POWER.
BECAUSE THE POWERS THAT WERE SEALED BELONGED TO THE FEMALE DEMON. THOSE POWERS HAVE NOW MANIFESTED IN YOU, THE FIRST GIRL BORN TO THE FAMILY.

RIGHT.
THAT IS DOUBTLESS THE ACTUAL PERSONALITY OF THE DIVINE ARTICLE ITSELF.
...SO THE "ME" WHO USES THE POWER OF THE WIND...
MOSO (SHUFFLE)
MOSO
I SEE...
I SHALL COMMUNICATE WITH THE DIVINE ARTICLE THROUGH YOU AND ASK ABOUT YOUR POWERS.
IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I NEED TO ENTER YOUR SPIRIT!!
SO WHY MY BOOBS THEN ..!?
AGH! JUST STAY STILL.
I'LL BE GOOD TO YOU!
HEY!
AGAIN ...?
MOMYU
MOMYU (SQUEEZE)

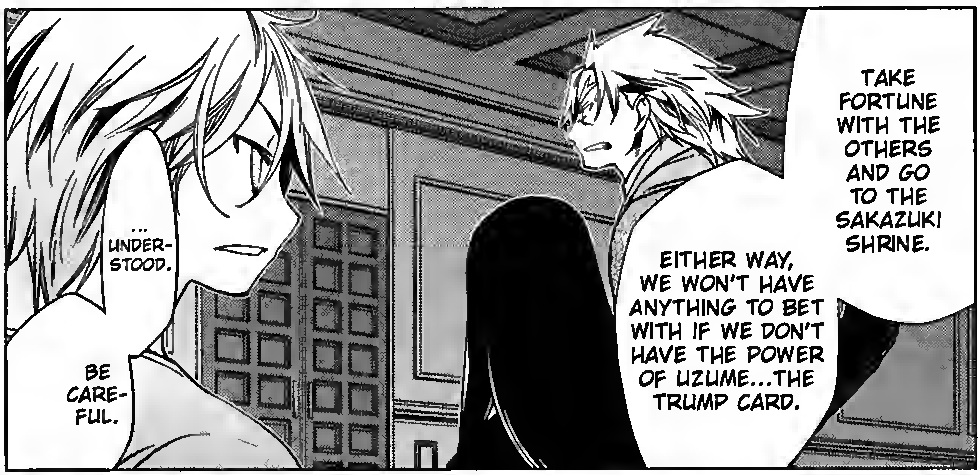
MAXIMUM PHYSICAL CONTACT IS THE BEST WAY TO EXCHANGE SPIRIT ENERGY.
MY LEGS FELL ASLEEP, SO I CAN'T GET AWAY!
BUT...
もみゅ
もみゅ
MOMYU
MOMYU
AAAH...
THAT SEEMS EVEN WEIRDER !!
DON'T WORRY, I'M A FEMALE-TYPE DIVINE ARTICLE.
SAKAZUKI-SAMA HAS GONE INTO MEDITATION MODE.
THEY WILL BE UNGUARDED.
!
SO IT'S BEGUN ...
!

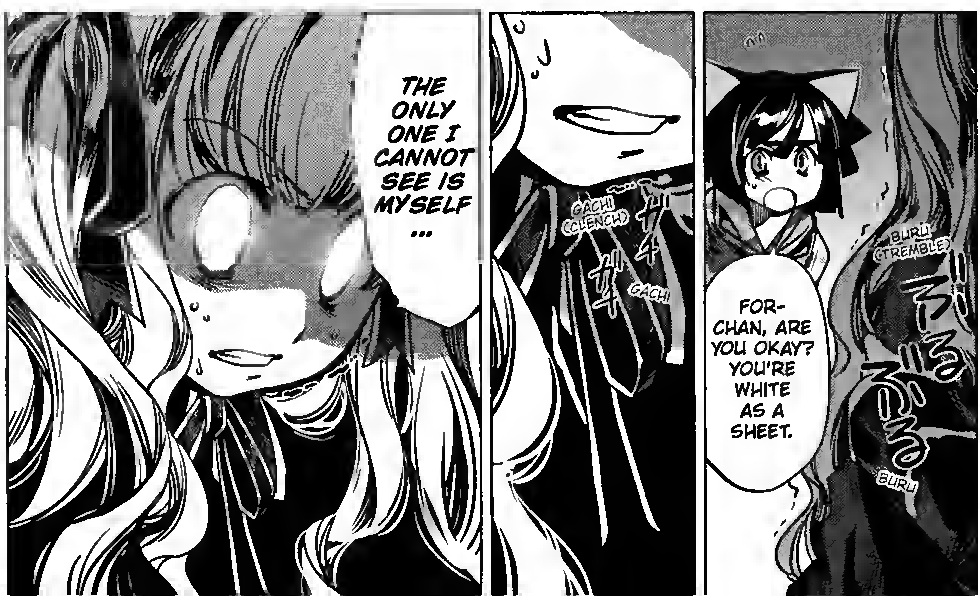
NANAMI... GOOD LUCK.
!?
...THEY'RE HERE.
!!

ARE YOU SURE, EMPRESS?
...OUR VARIOUS REGIONAL HIDEOUTS ARE BEING ATTACKED SIMULTANEOUSLY.
IT IS THE MINISTRY.

EVEN NOW, MY CHILDREN ARE BEING MASSACRED.
THAT IS FOR CERTAIN.
YES.
...I SEE.
BUT HOW? SO MANY LOCATIONS, ALL AT ONCE ...
A DELIBERATELY COORDINATED ATTACK.
HOW DID THEY FIND OUT ABOUT US?
HOW DID WE NOT KNOW ABOUT WHAT THEY WERE DOING?
FORTUNE
YOU COULDN'T SEE THEIR MOVEMENTS THROUGH YOUR CLAIRVOYANCE?
...NO.

WILL THEY COME HERE TOO?
PROB-ABLY.
IT'S JUST A QUES-TION OF WHEN.
FOOL.
CHARIOT AND I WILL BUY SOME TIME.


TAKE FORTUNE WITH THE OTHERS AND GO TO THE SAKAZUKI SHRINE.
EITHER WAY, WE WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO BET WITH IF WE DON'T HAVE THE POWER OF UZUME...THE TRUMP CARD.
...UNDER-STOOD.
BE CARE-FUL.

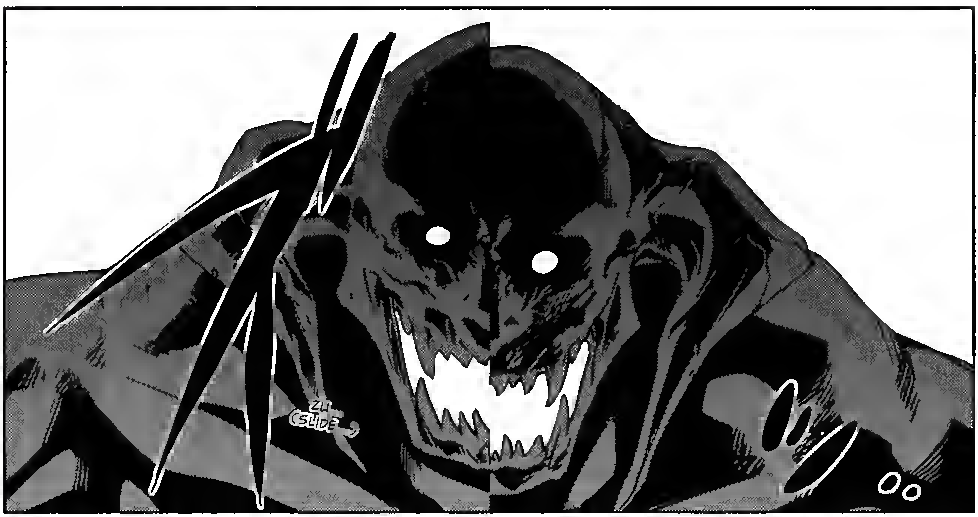

THE ONLY ONE I CANNOT SEE IS MYSELF ...
GACHI GACHI
GACHI
BURU BURU TREMBLE
BURU
FOR-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET.

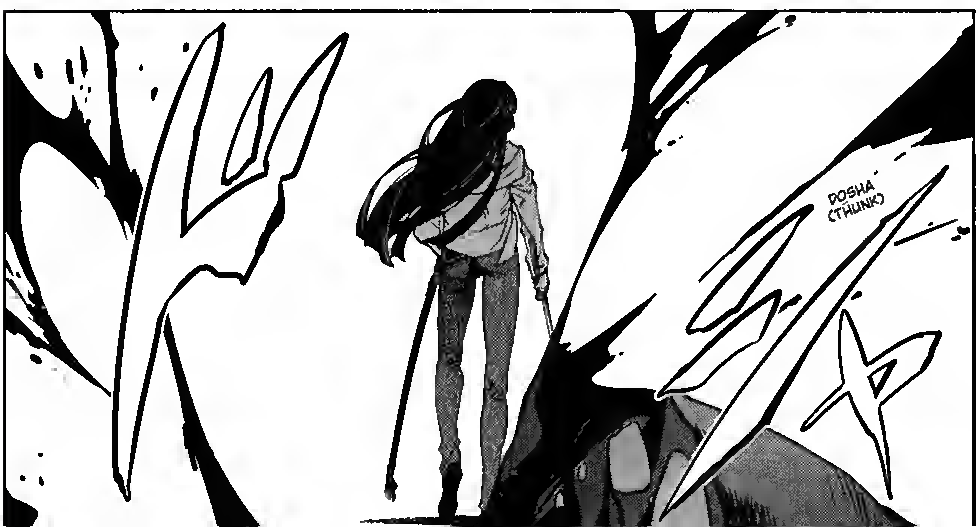
THE ONLY THING "AN OBSERVER" CAN'T SEE IS "THE OBSERVER" HERSELF.
AFTER SCANNING EVERYTHING ...
...THE PLACE THAT COULDN'T BE SEEN WAS THE LOCATION OF THE "ARCANA."
YES.
SINCE WE WERE RELYING ON OUR "OBSERVER'S" EYES AS WELL.
ARCANA USED THAT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.
NO WONDER THEY STAYED HIDDEN.
DID WE PUSH OUR "OBSERVER" TOO MUCH?
IT SHOULD BE FINE.
DESPITE APPEARANCES, IT IS ACTUALLY A VERY LONG-LIVED "OGRE."

...SINCE WE NEEDED TO *DIVIDE* IT IN ORDER TO PREVENT ARCANA FROM DETECTING OUR MOVEMENTS.
HOWEVER ...
...SOME MEDICAL TREATMENT MAY BE REQUIRED LATER...
AH ...

鬼薙
オニナギ
3
ONINAGI
AKIRA ISHIDA

Divine Article File No.005
VAJRA
©NINAGI
RANK: A
WIELDER: HIGAN KAGIMURA
Single throwing knife-type Divine Article that has been passed down through the Kagimura family. The head of the house inherits the article. The main body of the article is said to be housed within the wielder's body, but details about this are unknown. As long as the wielder's spirit energy is sustained, it is able to create Rank-D knives. When thrown, each knife is surrounded with thunder and its that also pursue the target. They can also be used to create a protective barrier.
The current wielder, Higan Kagimura, is considered to be the most powerful of all the family heads, and no one has ever witnessed him run out of the knives.


ZAK
(SLIDE)

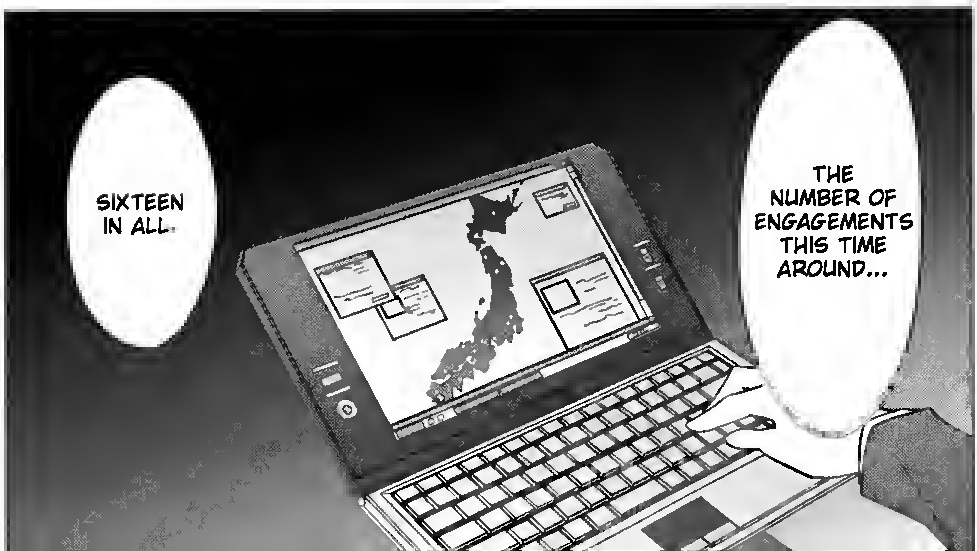

POSHA
(THUNK)

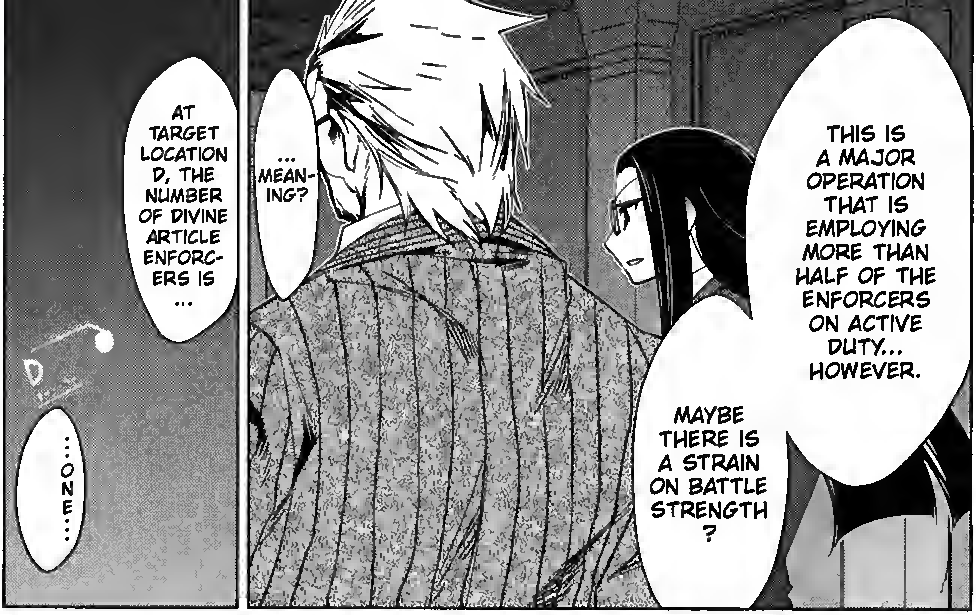
.....
I'M DIRTY.
ACT TWENTY.

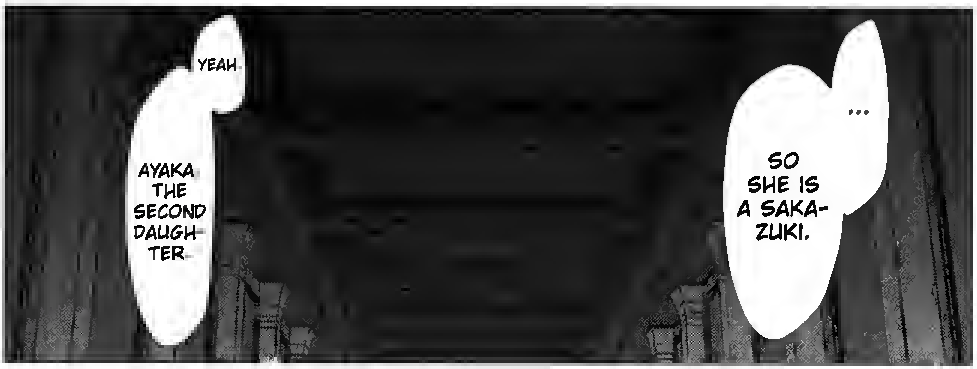
SUZUZU
WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT ALL FIFTY-PLUS DEMONS WOULD BE FINISHED OFF BY JUST ONE...
YOU ARE ONE TO BE RECK-ONED WITH.
LET ME INTRO-DUCE MY-SELF.
I AM THE DEVIL ...
ARE YOU THE LAST OF THEM?
... HUH?
ARE YOU THE BOSS HERE?

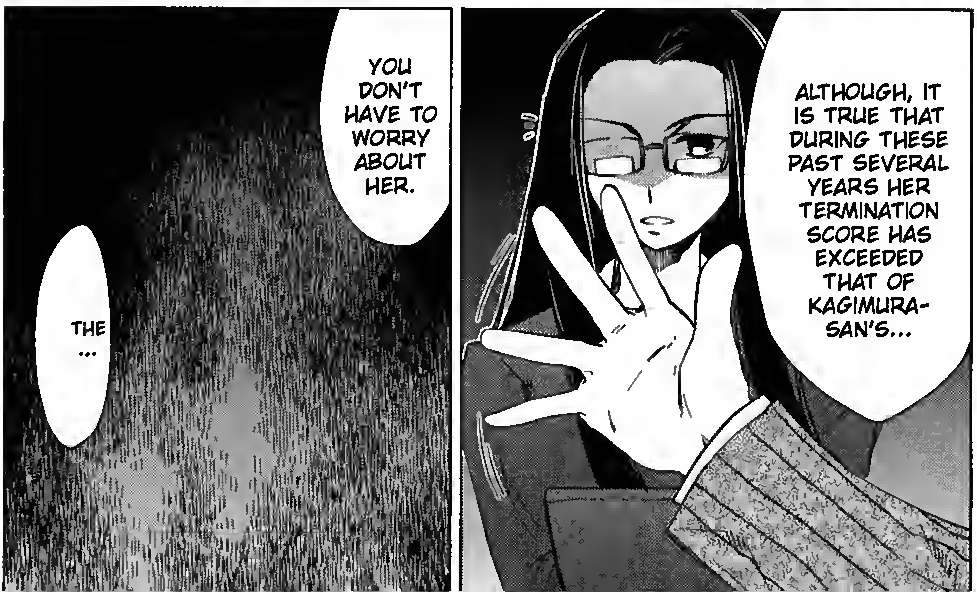
EN-FOR-CER AYAKA SAKA-ZUKI.
GOING FOR THE KILL.
PEEP?
TIME... NO IDEA. CONFIRM-ING PRES-ENCE OF GRADE ONE, HUMA-NOID DEMON.
...THAT IS FO.
HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD NOT HOLD ME IN THE SAME REGARD AS THOSE BEASTS THAT YOU'VE KILLED THUS FAR...
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO THE CLEAN-UP CREW ...
PI
ONCE I KILL YOU, MY DAY'S WORK IS DONE.
...
(GRIND)
I WAS UP LATE LAST NIGHT, AND I'M SLEEPY.
FUA (YAWN...)
ふぁ...
...AND I'M GOING TO BED AFTER A NICE HOT SHOWER.

DON'T YOU TREAT ME LIGHT-LY...
...MERE HUMAN!!
BUA GWAH!


THE NUMBER OF ENGAGEMENTS THIS TIME AROUND...
SIXTEEN IN ALL.


THIS IS A MAJOR OPERATION THAT IS EMPLOYING MORE THAN HALF OF THE ENFORCERS ON ACTIVE DUTY... HOWEVER.
MAYBE THERE IS A STRAIN ON BATTLE STRENGTH?
... MEAN-ING?
AT TARGET LOCATION D, THE NUMBER OF DIVINE ARTICLE ENFORC-ERS IS ...
...ONE...


...
SO SHE IS A SAKA-ZUKI.
YEAH
AYAKA THE SECOND DAUGH-TER


ALTHOUGH, IT IS TRUE THAT DURING THESE PAST SEVERAL YEARS HER TERMINATION SCORE HAS EXCEEDED THAT OF KAGIMURA-SAN'S...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER.
THE ...

...DIVINE ARTICLE THAT SHE HAS...
...IS THE GREATEST DIVINE ARTICLE IN ACTIVE DUTY RIGHT NOW.
MY CHAINS ABSORB TAINT AND SPIRITUAL POWER ALIKE TO BECOME EVEN STRONGER.
SO THE STRONGER YOU ARE, THE MORE IT WILL STRANGLE YOU.
NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT...
...ARE YOU, HUMAN?
GL CREAK
GIGI

LET'S DO THIS.
KAMIMARU KUNITSUNA.
PI... (CRACK)
YOUR POWERS ARE MINE...
PIKI (SHATTER)
!?

YOUR POWERS ARE MINE...
PI... (CRACK)
PIKI (SHATTER)
!?

LET'S DO THIS.
KAMIMARU KUNITSUNA.

IMPOS-
SIBLE...
MY
CHAINS
...?
YOU
POSSESS
SPIRITUAL
POWER
GREATER
THAN THE
MAXIMUM
STRENGTH
OF THE
CHAINS
...?
BUT
HOW
...?
HYU
(FWOOSH)
BA
(SLASH)

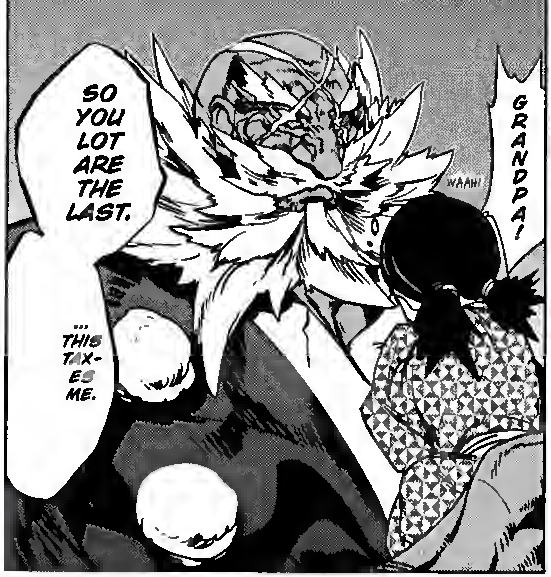
JOB.
ALL DONE.
CHIN (TINK)
チ…
ZUSHA (SMACK)

...AH.

WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT EVEN A KID LIKE THIS IS A DEMON?
YEAH.
NO MIS-TAKING IT.
OR WHAT ...?
DO YOU DOUBT MY DIVINE ARTICLE, BYAKU-SENGAN ?
IT'S NOT JUST THIS ONE...
ON THIS MOUNTAIN ALONE, I FEEL THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL DOZEN.
THIS IS ONE OF THE RUMORED DEMON HIDE-OUTS.
WE'VE HIT THE JACK-POT.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO INCREASE OUR TERMINATION SCORES.
HEH HEH.
THE EARLY BIRD TAKES THE WORM, HUH?
LET'S PICK UP THE PACE.
WE'RE UP AGAINST THE REST OF THE FORTY-EIGHT PEOPLE IN TWELVE GROUPS THAT WERE SENT HERE.
HEY, OLD MAN ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TOO MANY YEARS LEFT, SO LET US YOUNG'UNS GET SOME GLORY HERE.

NOW...
WHAT ABOUT THE KID?
A DEMON IS A DEMON. EVEN IF IT'S A KID.
.....
OKAY THEN...
HYU.. (FWOOSH..)
HYUGO (WHOOSH)
!?
WHERE...
THE WIND!?
WHAT WAS THAT!?
THE KID'S GONE!!
!
DA (STEP)

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
(WOOOSH)


GRANDPA!
WAAH!
SO YOU LOT ARE THE LAST.
...THIS TAXES ME.

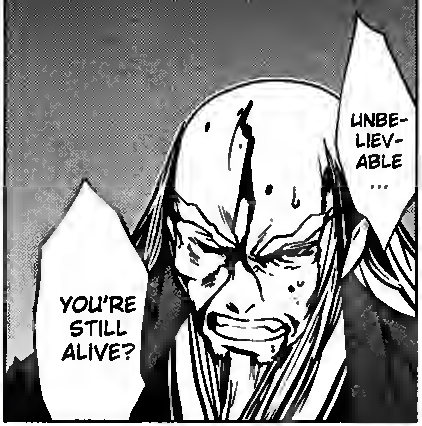
.....
2A (PING)
AH!
THERE!
GA (SLIDE)

HYUU (WHOOSH)

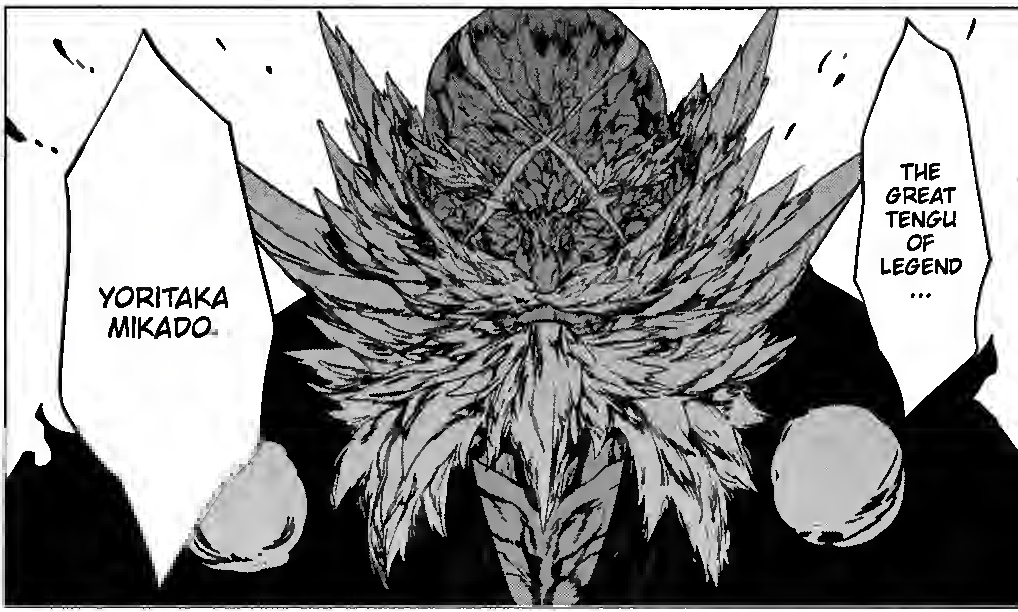
LAST ...?
WHAT ...?

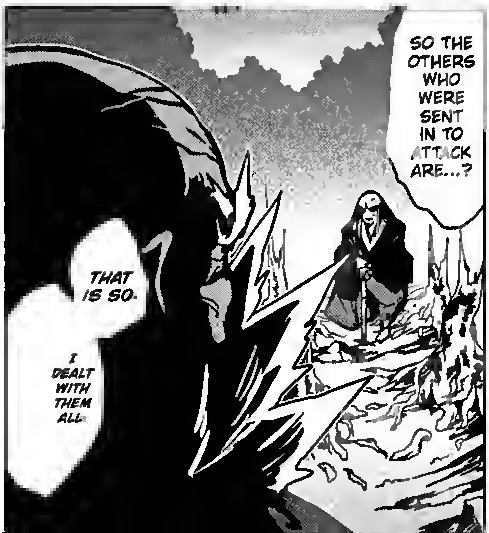
.....
HERE IT COMES.
BRACE YOUR...
...SE—
GO (VWOOSH)

ooooooo
(FWOOOH)
...
HMPH.


UNBE-
LIEV-
ABLE
...
YOU'RE
STILL
ALIVE?

ONE
STILL
LIVES?
...
...KUH.


THE
GREAT
TENGU
OF
LEGEND
...
YORITAKA
MIKADO.


SO THE
OTHERS
WHO
WERE
SENT
IN TO
ATTACK
ARE...?
THAT
IS SO.
I
DEALT
WITH
THEM
ALL.

SEE
?
THAT
WESTERN
WRITING
BUSINESS
MAKES
NOT A
PASSEL
OF
SENSE.
ENPERA,
OR WHAT-
EVER IT'S
S'POSED
TO BE.
IT'S
EMPEROR,
GRANDPA.

...
RE-GRET-TABLE.
GU...(GR
'SU...(REACH...)
WE CAN'T JUST ALLOW OUR-SELVES TO BE KILLED.
GO (VWOOSH)
WOOOW.

WHA~!?
WH-WH-WH-WH-WH-
WHAT IS THIS PLACE!?
CALM DOWN.
WE'RE INSIDE YOUR SOUL.
OH.
SAKAZUKI-SAMA...

WHO ARE YOU!?
IT'S ME, ME.
IN THE SPIRIT WORLD, I BECOME A HOTTIE WITH A NICE BOD... MY ORIGINAL STATE...
OKAY...
MY PHYSICAL APPEARANCE IN THE OUTER WORLD IS JUST A TEMPORARY ONE.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST COP A FEEL ON YOUR OWN BODY IN THE SPIRIT WORLD?
WHY DO YOU GOTTA FEEL ME UP?
I DON'T WANT TO UNDERSTAND.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU...? THE TOUCH OF FLESH HAS WORTH PRECISELY BECAUSE IT IS OF THE FLESH.
HA (PANT)
HA
WAKI (WIGGLE)
WAKI

SO...WHAT KIND OF A WORLD IS THIS?
I TOLD YOU. IT'S THE REALM OF YOUR SPIRIT.
YOUR POWER IS YOUR SPIRITUAL POWER... IT RESIDES WITHIN YOUR SOUL.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE AT THE SOURCE TO LOOK FOR IT.
HUH...
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND, BUT...
WHAT ARE THESE... BUBBLE-LIKE THINGS?
THOSE ARE YOUR MEMORIES... AND NOT JUST YOUR OWN.
THEY ARE ALSO THE MEMORIES OF YOUR BLOODLINE.
WHAT YOU HAVE INHERITED FROM YOUR ANCESTORS.
SO OF COURSE, THERE ARE PROBABLY ONES RELATING TO YOUR "POWER."
I GET IT!
SO WE LOOK FOR IT, AND...
.....

SO I'M TELLING YOU TO ACTUALLY EXPERIENCE THOSE THINGS...
IF YOU WISH TO MAKE THESE MEMORIES YOUR OWN, YOU JUST NEED TO REMEMBER THEM.
ALL THESE BUB-BLES ARE MEMO-RIES.
THEN WHAT?
YES.
YOU SAID SHE USED WIND?
LET'S AT LEAST LOOK FOR THE PERSONALITY OF THE DIVINE ARTICLE THAT YOU TALKED ABOUT BEFORE.
...OKAY.
HUH?
HEY!
DON'T GO RANDOMLY TOUCHING THE BUB-BLES!
WITH THAT ...
MOST LIKELY, SHE WILL BE NEAR A MEMORY RELATED TO THE POWER OF THE WIND...OR MIGHT HAVE EVEN FUSED WITH THAT MEMORY.

PAN
(POP)
—EH?
THIS
IS...

GOTCHA...
GOTCHA...
GOTCHA...
GOTCHA...
THE MEMORY ...
...FROM BACK THEN !?
GOTCHA...
HA
KESHO

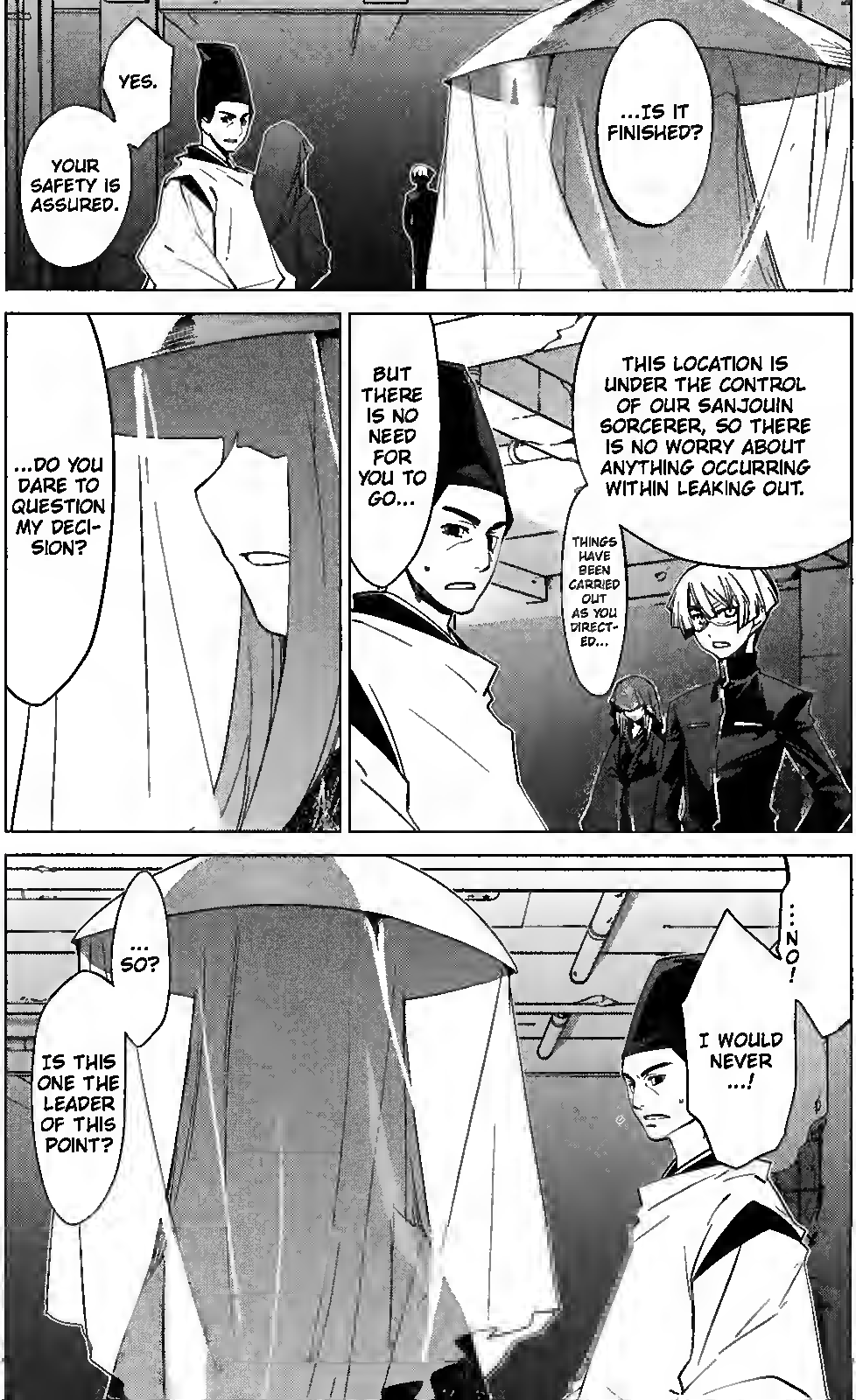
YOUR POWER... IS MINE.
ZAN (DOOM)
.....
.....

SAKA-ZUKI-SAMAAA, HEEELP!!
カツ
KA (KLICK)
KATSUUUUN
K. TSUUUUN (STOMP)
CHIEF.
.....
...THE LEAD FORCE SHOULD'VE GOTTEN HERE ALREADY ...
WHAT HAP-PENED?
OH YEAH.
I THREW THEM QUITE THE WEL-COME PARTY.

LONG TIME NO SEE ...
...KI-KU-CHI.
YOU'VE REALLY AGED, HUH?
AND YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL...
... SUOU ...
NOT SINCE THE TIME YOU WERE ONE OF US.

鬼薙
オニナギ
3
ONINAGI
AKIRA ISHIDA

Divine Article File No.006
SAKAZUKI
ONINAGI
RANK: S
WIELDER: A POSSESSION OF THE SAKAZUKI SHRINE
A Divine Article in the form of a young girl in which resides the deity of the Sakazuki Shrine. Has its own personality.
It is able to create a protective anti-taint barrier of about four kilometers in diameter around the shrine. However, the Sakazuki spirit can only exist within the barrier.
It is able to create Rank C spirit clones of itself, which in turn are able to function independently. These offsheets can only function within the protective barrier as well. The maximum number of these clones at any given time is fifty.
The Sakazuki Shrine is well known as an excellent training ground for spirit energy wielders due to the anti-taint barrier around the entire shrine and for the extensive knowledge and experience offered by Sakazuki-sama.


...IS IT FINISHED?
YES.
YOUR SAFETY IS ASSURED.
THIS LOCATION IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF OUR SANJOUIN SORCERER, SO THERE IS NO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING OCCURRING WITHIN LEAKING OUT.
THINGS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT AS YOU DIRECTED...
BUT THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO...
...DO YOU DARE TO QUESTION MY DECISION?
...NO!
I WOULD NEVER ...!
...SO?
IS THIS ONE THE LEADER OF THIS POINT?

YES.
HE WAS CALLED BY THE NAME HIEROPHANT... BUT HIS REAL IDENTITY IS ALSO KNOWN.
FROM THE IMI SCHOOL OF SORCERY, KIMINARI RYOUMYOUJI.
ACT TWENTY-ONE.

RYOU-MYOUJI? I HAVE HEARD OF THAT NAME...
YES. THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY THE LOWEST BRANCH OF THE SANJOUIN.
THE IMI SCHOOL WAS FORMERLY A BRANCH OF SORCERY IN WHICH A METHOD OF FUSION WITH A DEMONIC FAMILIAR WAS EMPLOYED.
DUE TO THEIR SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS AND BECAUSE OF THE EMERGENCY FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, THEY WERE BANNED AND EXILED.
.....
HA.
YOU BASTARDS... YOU'RE THE HEAD OF SANJOUIN!?
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE YOU IN PERSON.
IS WHAT'S UNDER THAT VEIL THE SAME AS FIFTEEN YEARS AGO!?
NAH... DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'VE CHANGED OR NOT...
YOU'RE JUST THE VESSEL BEING USED TO PROTECT THIS DAMNED "SANJOUIN" SYSTEM.
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...? THAT'S WHY YOU ABANDONED US, RIGHT ...!?

YOU GO TOO FAR... SCUM.
GUH ...
GAH!
IN THE END, ALL OF US, INCLUDING THOSE THAT CRAWL AROUND YOU...
...ARE JUST DISPENS-ABLE, TO BE TOSSED—
DARI (CLAP)
LEAVE THE TWO OF US ALONE.
.....
YOU LOT LEAVE
... DAN-GEROUS ...?
IT'S DANGER-OUS!! TO LEAVE YOU ALONE WITH THE LIKES OF A DEMON, SIRE—
YOU MUSTN'T! EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEEN RESTRAINED ...
WHAT ...!?
!?
SIRE!?

ARE THOSE ...
...INSOLENT WORDS DIRECTED AT THE HEAD OF THE SANJOUIN HOUSE? TO I, SEIMEI SANJOUIN ...?
I WILL NOT REPEAT MYSELF A THIRD TIME.
LEAVE. NOW.
.....
...
...Y-YES...

... NOW ...
I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU...
YOU HAVE, WITHIN YOUR ORGANIZATION, SOMEONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF *STRENGTH*, DO YOU NOT?
WHERE IS HE?
?
WHY DO YOU ASK ...?
DOES HE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE SANJOUIN HOUSE?
I AM THE ONE ASKING THE QUES-TIONS.
I DO NOT ASK ANYTHING DIFFICULT. JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW.
OTHER-WISE ...
KEH-KEH... OTHERWISE, WHAT?

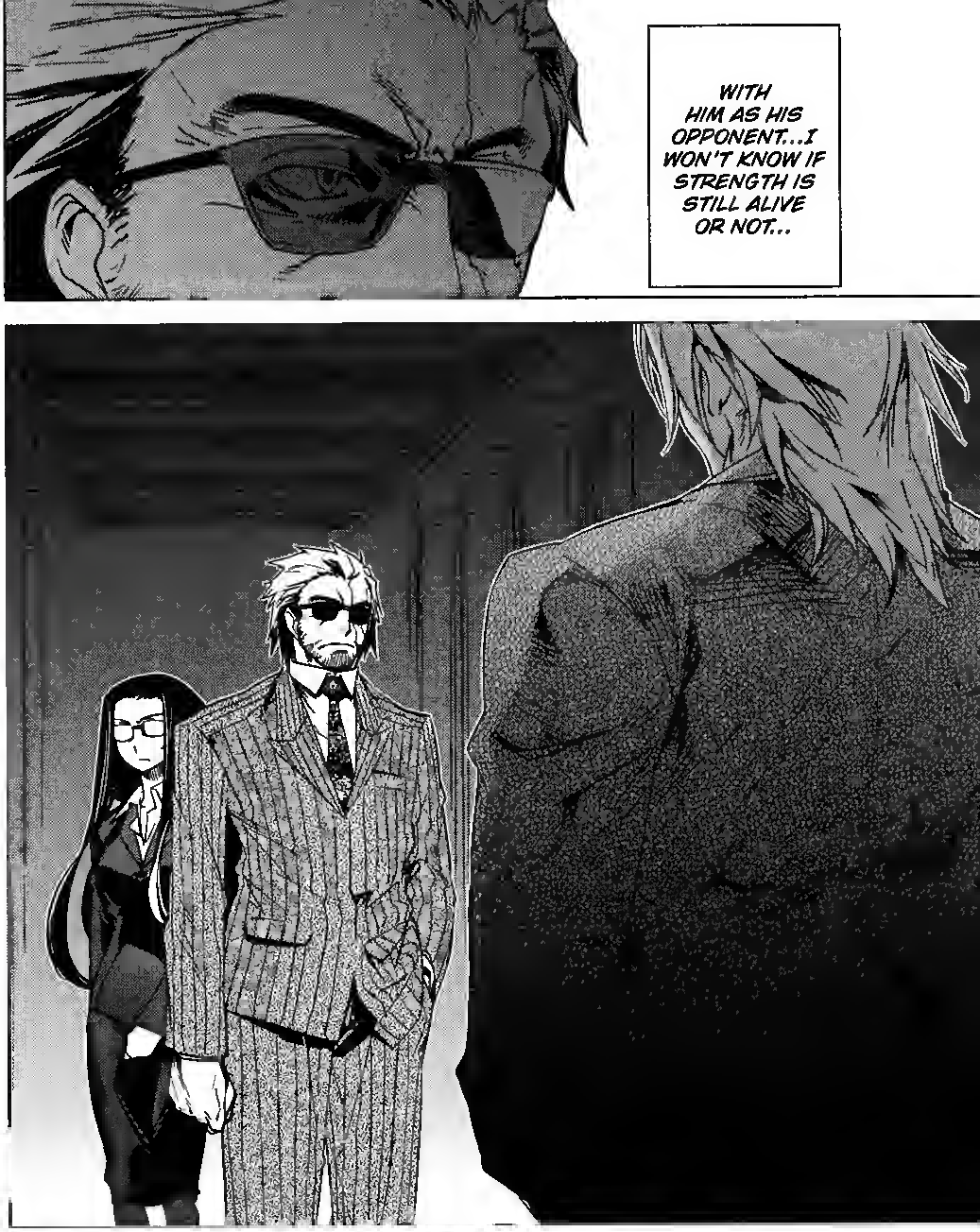
(KRUNCH)
KEH KEH ...
THAT WAS A MISTAKE, HAVING YOUR UNDER-LINGS LEAVE ...
ZU (SUCK)
ZU
ZU
ZU
(CRUSH)
BUCH! (SNAP)
BUCH!
BARI (RIP)
EVEN I CAN'T DO ANYTHING AGAINST THAT NUMBER OF SOR-CERERS, BUT...
GOOOO (WOOH)
OTHER-WISE...
HUH?

ZAGO
(BLAM)
...EH?
OTHER-
WISE
...
...PERHAPS
I SHOULD
MAKE IT
EASIER
FOR YOU
TO SPEAK
...?

ZAGO
AUGH!!
KUH!
AGH!
SPEAK WHEN YOU FEEL READY.
THEN I WILL SHOW MERCY ON YOU WITH YOUR DEATH.
... WHERE IS HE?
GUH!
AGH!
GAH!
AH!
ZAGO
ZAGO
ZAGO
ZAGO
ZAGO
ZAGO
ZAGO
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU...

...YOU ARE ALL RITUALISTIC ARTICLES TO BE USED AND TOSSED ASIDE.
JUST AS YOU SAID ...
BUT KAZUTO ...
BROTHER KAZUTO IS DIFFERENT ...
I SWEAR I SHALL KILL STRENGTH ...
...THE DEMON WHO INJURED MY BROTHER.
ZAGO GBLAMD
NOW... TELL ME.
JUST DOING THAT WILL EASE YOUR PAIN ...

YOU HAVE FINISHED ...?
IS HE ...?
SIRE!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
!
SO HE IS WITH...
...THE KIKUCHI CHIEF ...
...


WITH HIM AS HIS OPPONENT...I WON'T KNOW IF STRENGTH IS STILL ALIVE OR NOT...

YOU WERE REAL HARD-CORE FROM BEFORE, I GUESS.
CHIEF... HUH. SO YOU GOT PROMOTED ?

IS KAGI-MURA STILL AN ENFOR-CER?
HE... HATES RANK AND POSI-TION.
...!

KURA-MASA SHOU.
AN ELITE AMONGST THE OGRE CLAN.
WORKED AS AN ENFORCER WITH THE MINISTRY UP UNTIL THE IN-CIDENT FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.
THE CHIEF, SHOU, AND KAGIMURA HAD EACH RACKED UP AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD AS ENFORCERS...
THEY WERE CLOSE ALLIES IN BATTLE AS WELL AS, MOST LIKELY, RIVALS.

BACK THEN, THERE WERE THOSE WORKING WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF TREASURES WHO MADE USE OF THE POWER OF TAINT, WHICH THEY HAD TAKEN INTO THEIR OWN BODIES.
THE OGRE CLAN ALSO FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THEM TO HELP MAINTAIN ORDER IN SOCIETY.
HOW-EVER, FIF-TEEN YEARS AGO ...
...THEY WENT ON A RAMPAGE AND COUNTLESS INJURIES RESULTED.
PEOPLE BEGAN TO LOOK UPON THEIR POWERS WITH FEAR.
AND FINALLY, WHEN THERE OCCURRED AN INCIDENT IN WHICH THE THEN-HEAD OF THE MINISTRY AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS WERE MURDERED...

...THE **OGRES** FOUND THEMSELVES IN THE POSITION OF BEING HUNTED AS **DEMONS.**

AND A FIERCE BATTLE ENSUED.

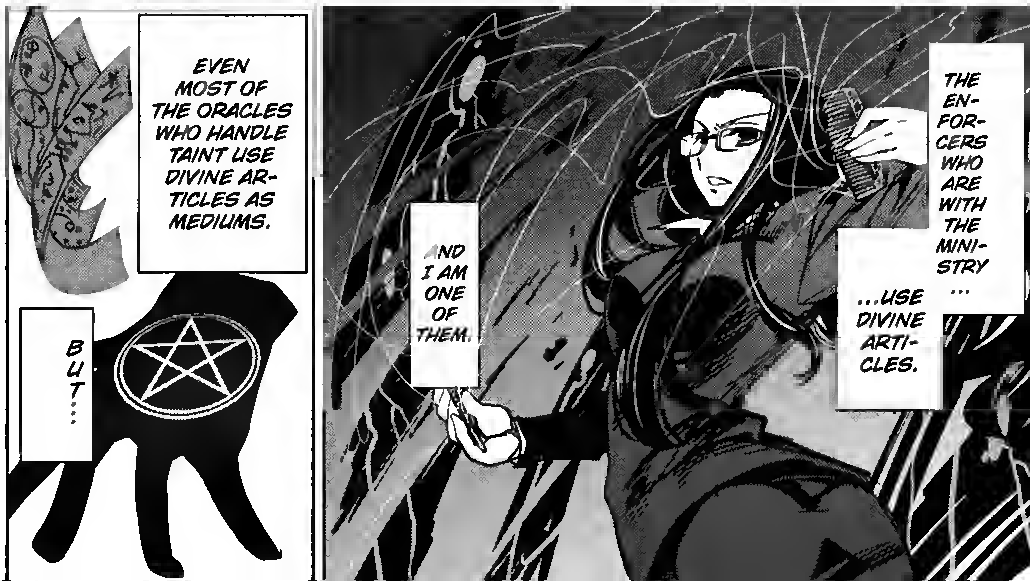
BECAUSE OF THAT, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT DEMONIC BLOOD, STARTING WITH THE OGRES, HAD BEEN EXTERMINATED...
WHO KNEW THEY STILL EXISTED...?
WAIT THERE.
!
BASA (TOSS)
CHIEF, YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO THIS.
I CAN —!
THIS ISN'T SOMEONE YOU CAN STAND UP TO
NOT HIM.

IT'S BEEN, WHAT, FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE WE FOUGHT?
HAS IT...?
YEAH, I GUESS SO.
YOU'VE PROBABLY GOTTEN SOFT DOING THE DESK JOB THING.
YOU'RE OLD, SO DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF.
I'LL SHOW YOU...
...IF I'VE GONE SOFT OR NOT ...

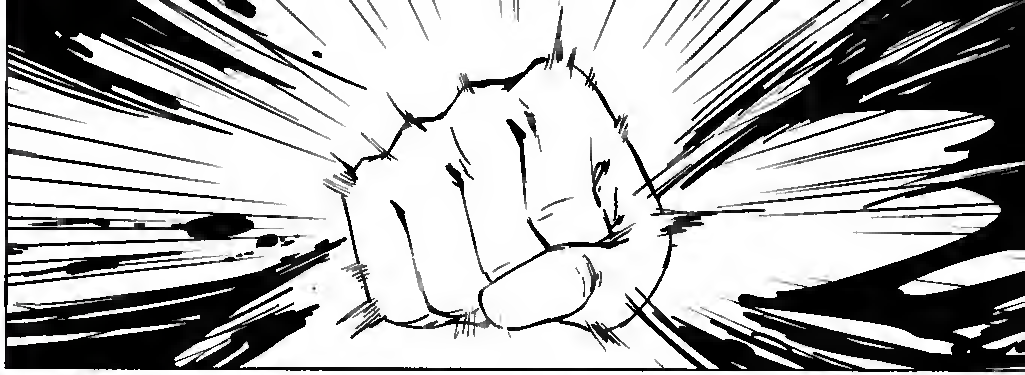
NU...
(SNEER...)
ZU
SAVE THE MAIN DISH FOR LATER.
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
HEY, TAKE IT EASY.
ZU (LEECH)
!
HOW ABOUT SOME HORS D'OEUVRES?
IT'S NOT REALLY MY THING...BUT IT WOULDN'T FEEL RIGHT TO WASTE WHAT I HAVE AT MY DISPOSAL.

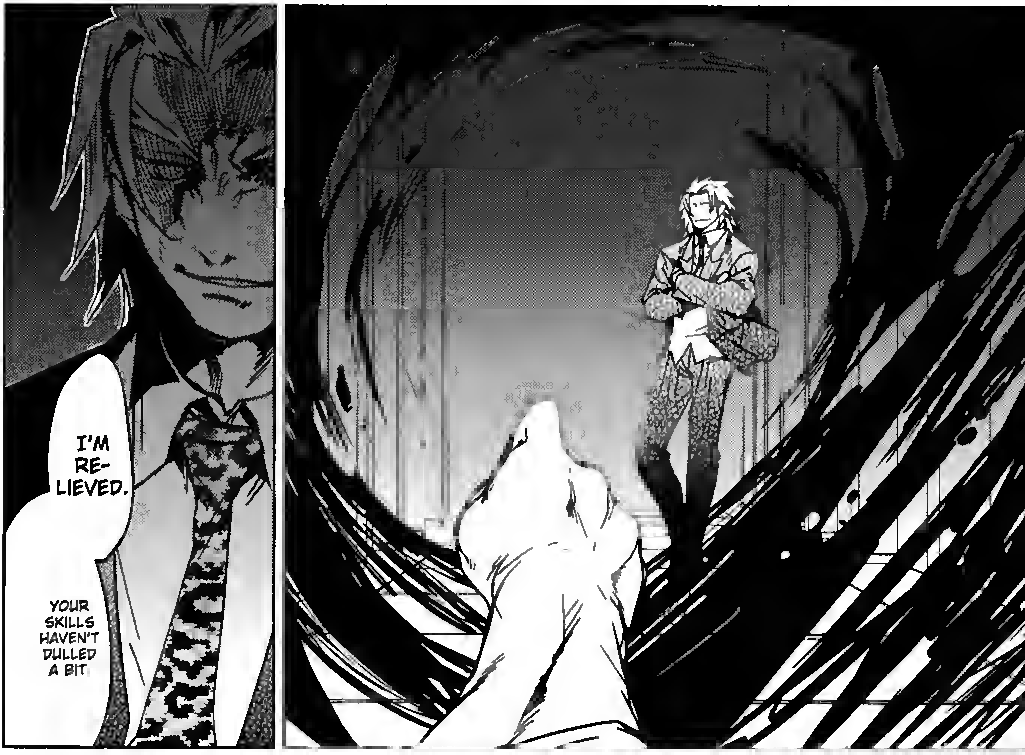
WHAT ...
.....
THESE AREN'T DEMONS MORE LIKE CURSED BEINGS.
THEY ABSORB THEIR VICTIMS AND MULTIPLY ...
GO, SATORU!
KA-GAMI.
YOU'RE GOOD FENDING FOR YOUR-SELF, RIGHT?
OKAY.
.....
YES.

ZAN
GOG...G
GOGGGGGGGH
GA
GA
GA
WOO


EVEN MOST OF THE ORACLES WHO HANDLE TAINT USE DIVINE ARTICLES AS MEDIUMS.
BUT...
AND I AM ONE OF THEM.
THE ENFORCERS WHO ARE WITH THE MINISTRY ...
...USE DIVINE ARTICLES.

...CHIEF KIKUCHI CAN DO WHAT FEW OTHER ENFORCERS ARE CAPABLE OF—
GO (WHOOSH)
THAT IS, DEFEATING DEMONS USING HIS OWN SPIRITUAL POWERS.
ZUA
DO (DWOH)
BA (WHASH)




I'M RE-LIEVED.
YOUR SKILLS HAVEN'T DULLED A BIT

FORGET ABOUT HORS D'OEUVRES OR WHAT-EVER.
HURRY UP AND FIGHT ME...
... SUOU

I'D REALLY LIKE TO STAY AND PLAY, BUT...
...I'M THINKING I PROBABLY BOUGHT ENOUGH TIME.
ZU... (SLIP...)
!!
PARI (CRACKLE)
THE BARRIER'S BEEN BROKEN.

HOW DID THEY TEAR DOWN THE ANTI-TAINT BARRIER...?
WE CAN TRY TO MEND IT, BUT BOTH SAKAZUKI-SAMA AND NANAMI-CHAN ARE IN DEEP MEDITATION...
THE TIMING COULD NOT BE WORSE ...
WE JUST HAVE TO TAKE OUT THE TRESPASSERS, RIGHT?
HEY.
THERE'S NOTHING TO REALLY THINK ABOUT.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

TITLE
ONINAGI
The *oni* in the title (and the name of the sword) can be read as "demon."

PAGE 48
Vajra
Originally, a small metal weapon that is said to possess traits of both the diamond (can cut anything but cannot be cut itself) and the thunderbolt (indestructible force). It is significant in Buddhism and other Eastern religions and is thought to represent spiritual power.

PAGE 65
Arcana
The name of the organization "Arcana" is a reference to the Major Arcana, the part of a tarot card deck that is thought to have the most divinatory and spiritual significance. The code names of the Arcana's members are all taken from the individual cards of the Major Arcana (eg. Strength, Fortune, Temperance, Fool, et. al.).

PAGE 75
Senpai
Upperclassman.

PAGE 96
The Seiman symbol (☆)
The symbol, which when drawn, has no beginning or end, does not allow for "demons" to enter and is said to be a talisman against evil. It is said the famous professor of divination of the Heian period, Abe no Seimei, used it first as a protective talisman. The women shell divers of Iseshima stitch the symbol into their clothes and gloves to pray for safety on the job and for good health.

PAGE 131
Kunitsuna
The name of a renowned Japanese swordsmith.

Kamimaru
Literally, "divine circle."

PAGE 140
Tengu
A Japanese goblin that is known to be both dangerous and disruptive, but also has protective qualities.

PAGE 154
Hieraphant
The fifth card in the Major Arcana deck of twenty-two cards. It represents social conformity, knowledge, and insight.

PAGE 157
Abe no Seimei
A leading specialist in divination during the middle of the Heian period (approx. 794-1185 A.D.) in Japan. He prayed for good fortune for the emperors and the government while also acting as an advisor on certain issues. In addition to his prominence in history, he is a legendary figure in Japanese folklore, said to not be entirely human and able to command weak demons to do his bidding.

ONINAGI ③

AKIRA ISHIDA

Translation: Kaori Inoue

Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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